



GARDEN CLUB  
OF VIRGINIA

# Historic Garden Week

## THE MAGAZINE

### OAK SPRING

THE LEGACY OF BUNNY MELLON'S GARDEN

**PAULA  
PRYKE**

BRITISH FLORIST  
AND AUTHOR

**KITCHEN  
DESIGN  
TRENDS**

**SAVING  
OUR  
ECOSYSTEM**

ONE PLANT AT A TIME

FALL /  
WINTER  
2020

# BULB PLANTING TIPS FROM GLOUCESTER

**FAMILY-RUN BUSINESS DATES TO 1900**

BY BECKY HEATH AND DENISE HUTCHINS OF BRENT & BECKY'S BULBS

When the colors in your yard start to change, it's like a traffic signal letting you know it's time to get started on the fall garden. Plant in an area you see often so you can enjoy your efforts — along the sidewalk, next to your front or back door, the view out your kitchen window or around a deck or patio.

Bulbs planted now will bloom in the spring. Some will emerge before the rest of your garden even begins to wake from winter's slumber. For fun, select a mix of bulbs, some that flower in early spring like *Crocus tommasinianus* 'Ruby Giant', with others that bloom a bit later, like *Eremurus* 'Bubble Gum'. Growing bulbs with staggered bloom times means you'll have splashes of color for longer.

Most spring flowering bulbs should be planted at a depth three times the bulb's circumference with the pointed side up. The exception is tulips, which should be planted farther below the surface, at four times the bulb's height. Planting deeper also makes it more difficult for voles to eat them because most of the vole's normal activity is in soil three to four inches deep. These "underground bulb monsters" have to work really hard to get to the depth of eight or 10 inches. At Brent & Becky's Bulbs our soil is sandy; we plant our tulip bulbs at 8-10 inches.

If you grow your bulbs in containers, consider the "lasagna layering" method. Placing different varieties of bulbs in this way ensures your pots are brimming with blooms for longer. Place the latest blooming variety in the bottom layer and the earliest blooming type on top. If your soil is rich enough, it's possible to use this method in your garden as well. Dig a hole 10 inches deep, drop in one tulip bulb; add a bit of soil on top and follow with a daffodil bulb; add more soil, then a crocus bulb. There will be three bulbs per hole. Other combinations of bulbs, depending on suggested planting depth, work well using this technique too.

Plant fall bulbs after the first frost but before the soil freezes. Depending on the severity of the approaching winter, this means you might be able to plant until early January. Most bulbs love cold weather, and if planted too soon in soil that has been warmed by Virginia's hot, humid summers, they will rot while waiting for the soil to be cooled by autumn's chilly nights. Another useful tip: bulbs look best when grown in groups, so plant five to 10 in a single patch rather than dotted by themselves, where they will look skimpy and lonely.

Some bulbs are pest-resistant. Others might as well be squirrel candy. When planting tulips, which must be particularly delicious to them, consider creating a barrier. After planting, place chicken wire down and then cover with mulch. Garden supply catalogs sell wire cages designed to be filled with bulbs and soil, which is another option. Growing bulbs, like daffodils and alliums that are toxic or don't taste good to animals, amongst other bulbs, should help to deter wildlife from gnawing on the rest of your plants.

Fall is such a beautiful time of year to be outside, and what could be a better symbol of hope than a bulb?



## THE BALLERINA TULIP

The embodiment of spring, most gardeners reserve tulips for a prominent location in the garden or in containers, where their majesty can be enjoyed up close. There are over 3,000 varieties of tulips. What makes the lily-flowered tulips different are their slender flowers with pointed, elegant petals that curve outwards. The Ballerina tulip is Historic Garden Week's 2021 "flower" and will be showcased in over 130 participating private gardens throughout Virginia this spring. Marigold-orange with scarlet flames and lemon edges, this late-blooming beauty has a citrus-fragrance and was introduced in 1980.



"We live and work on our 28-acre farm and gardens in Gloucester, Virginia, which has been called the 'Daffodil Capital of America.' The property includes over eight acres of educational, Chesapeake Bay friendly gardens, which is open to the public." — BECKY HEATH  
brentandbeckysbulbs.com

# the path forward

## HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK 2021 WILL TAKE PLACE APRIL 17-24

BY MISSY BUCKINGHAM, PRESIDENT OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

Gardens are symbols of hope and renewal. They express creativity and provide an opportunity for reflection. During these trying times, many of us are enjoying more time spent in our own gardens. With precautions in place, visiting someone else's garden is also a safe place to be. Expect nearly 200 gardens to be open during Historic Garden Week 2021.

For one week this April, visitors will tour inspired private landscapes, public gardens and historic sites across Virginia, enjoying our beautiful state at the peak of spring. In addition, over 1,000 world-class floral arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members will enhance tour properties. This beloved statewide event will include 30 unique tours organized and hosted by 48 member clubs located from the foothills of the Shenandoah Valley all the way to the beaches of Tidewater.



This magazine includes five suggested itineraries by region to make planning your trip easier. Use our website, VAGardenWeek.org, to learn more about each tour, stay updated on touring logistics and protocols and to purchase tickets available in mid-January.

The Garden Club of Virginia, which produces Historic Garden Week, is celebrating its Centennial this year. Having this milestone for our organization take place in these uncertain times has positioned us to focus and prepare for the challenges of the future. Over the last eight months, we've channeled our energies to seek new ways to continue to make our work both meaningful and lasting, and to ensure a safe and enjoyable touring experience for volunteers, homeowners and you, our visitors in the new year.

There is a fundamental hopefulness in planting a seed or a bulb. Communing with nature offers beauty, optimism and solace. Access to open spaces is not only essential to our well-being, but a healthy antidote to our current reality.

The metaphors are apt. Gardening is grounding, but it's also about having a hand in reshaping our environment, and thus, our future. We hope *Historic Garden Week — The Magazine* has inspired you, and we look forward to seeing you in April.



Photo courtesy of Tricia Sauer

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE



## IN HONOR OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA'S CENTENNIAL

This year's official state history ornament features a painting from the VMHC's collection, a stunning view of land that would one day become Shenandoah National Park. In securing support for the park's creation, the Garden Club helped safeguard 79,000 acres of wilderness.

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**ON THE COVER** Ballantrae Farm in McLean was photographed by Donna Moulton, member of The Garden Club of Fairfax, for the covers of both *The Magazine* and *Historic Garden Week's 2021 Guidebook*, coming out this March. It will be open for touring on April 20, 2021.

# HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK 2021 WILL BE DIFFERENT:

## We're planning on it

BY KAREN CAUTHEN ELLSWORTH *Historic Garden Week State Director*

Being proactive about the upcoming tours, the Historic Garden Week State Committee and the GCV Board continues to consider applicable best practices, input and advice from both national and state partner organizations regarding the planning and production of large-scale gatherings that could apply to the upcoming tours.

They are already implementing a systematic plan for all 30 tours in order to ensure the physical safety of the nearly 3,500 Garden Club of Virginia (GCV) members that make this annual event possible, as well as you, the public, by following local, state and federal guidelines. The leadership of the GCV understands the popularity of Historic Garden Week with its members and its fans and is well aware that changes will be necessary to ensure a positive experience for everyone.

### THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA HAS YOUR SAFETY TOP OF MIND.

|   |   |   |  |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cleaning & Sanitizing   | Face Masks  | Physical Distancing & Reduced Capacity  | No Refreshments  | Easy & Obvious Places to Get Information  | Contactless Ticket Purchase & Tour Entry  | Worry-free Refunds & Exchanges  |

Two important dates shared with tour teams at their initial training, which took place at the end of June, are helping guide decision-making.

The first involves tour **LOGISTICS** that directly impact what is included in the spring *Guidebook*, which will be published in mid-March.

Several decisions affecting the upcoming tours have already been made.

- Tickets for all 30 tours will be available online only, and available in mid-January on Historic Garden Week's website, VAGardenWeek.org.
- To ensure adequate social distancing, tickets will sell-out at the capacity each tour team determines is best for their particular tour. Some tours will implement timed tickets, others will sell a morning and an afternoon ticket to help control crowds and ensure social distancing.
- Driving directions will not be included in the spring *Guidebook*. They will be available online at VAGardenWeek.org on each tour's individual webpage. Many tours, especially those in rural areas, will provide a map that can be picked up at the Tour Headquarters on tour day.
- Any additional LOGISTICAL aspects of Historic Garden Week that might need to be adjusted to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone involved will be communicated no later than **December 15**.
- Please check our website and follow us on social media. Facebook: Historic Garden Week in Virginia and Instagram: @historicgardenweek

The second date involves 2021 touring **PROTOCOLS**. For example, will guests and hostesses be required to wear masks while touring April 17-24? The Historic Garden Week State Committee will share applicable information with the 2021 tour teams, private property owners, ticket buyers and other important stakeholders no later than **February 24, 2021**.

That information will be communicated on our website and through social media, as well as directly to people who buy tickets through our ticketing system.

We hope that candid conversations, a plan that is thorough and methodical, and timely communication with all stakeholders eases any worries around the upcoming Historic Garden Week tours. If you have any questions or ideas, please email [info@VAGardenWeek.org](mailto:info@VAGardenWeek.org).

Thank you for your continued support of "America's Largest Open House."

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"When life gives you lemons, make lemonade!"

Are you inspired by the words of others, as I often am? I am a collector of "sayings." These are inspirational words that either speak to me in a moment or might inspire me later. I've even got a spiral notebook into which I've cut and pasted some and jotted others down. An oldie but goodie is the lemons to lemonade one. As we worked through the disappointment of having to cancel Historic Garden Week 2020, we reminded each

other of that one often. Let me tell you, we drank a LOT of lemonade!

The late Audrey Hepburn once said, "Opportunities don't often come along. So, when they do, you have to grab them." This has become our new way of thinking as we plan for Historic Garden Week 2021. We are very excited about this "opportunity" that you are holding in your hands. *Historic Garden Week – The Magazine* is the result of the desire to acknowledge our loyal sponsors and advertisers and to inform you, our loyal visitors, that "the show WILL go on," albeit differently.

"Life is like photography. You need the negatives to develop." While the author of this saying is unknown, the words are very appropriate for those of us who work to make Historic Garden Week in Virginia happen. Creating HGW 2021 within CDC, national and state guidelines pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging. The "normal" is now considered "negative." But like film going through a chemical bath to become beautiful pictures, Historic Garden Week 2021 is going through its own transformative process to become a different, but still wonderful, experience for those who travel through our beautiful commonwealth.

We look forward to welcoming you to Historic Garden Week 2021. Members of GCV, our "Gracious Commonwealth Volunteers," cannot wait to greet you in some of the most spectacular gardens and spaces in Virginia. And, while you might have to bring your own lemonade, you'll be able to see the results of our grabbing for opportunities and letting those negatives develop into memorable photographs.

"A garden is a friend you can visit anytime." Come visit your Historic Garden Week friends April 17-24, 2021. We can't wait to see you!

**Tricia Garner, Chair, Historic Garden Week Committee**  
GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA



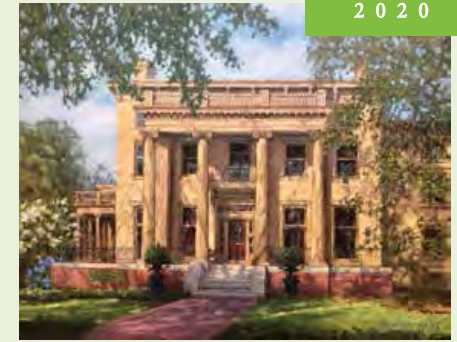
Historic Garden Week opens the garden gate to the very best of Virginia. It is a highly anticipated event that shows off the creativity of Garden Club of Virginia members who make the magic happen. Right now, as air temperatures are dropping but the soil is still warm and perfect for planting, nearly 200 private homeowners are busy in their gardens. Our volunteers are also focused on preparations for your visit.

To commemorate the Garden Club of Virginia's Centennial in 2020, we updated our first economic impact study of Historic Garden Week, the nation's oldest house and garden tour. In just the last 50 years, we have reliable data indicating that the cumulative impact is an impressive \$518 million. A popular statewide event, it is also the largest ongoing volunteer effort in Virginia that promotes so many of our communities, both large and small.

Historic Garden Week would not be possible without the efforts of 3,500 Garden Club of Virginia members in 48 clubs across the state, working together. Thank you for your interest and support, and to the annual efforts of these dedicated volunteers.

**Lynn McCashin, Executive Director**  
GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

Photo of Lynn McCashin courtesy of Jay Paul



Painting of the Kent-Valentine House courtesy of Beth Marchant

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Planting Tulips</b> .....   | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Path Forward</b> .....  | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>2021 Will Be Different</b> .....  | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Paula Pryke</b> .....   | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Greener Vision</b> .....  | <b>14</b> |
| <b>Common Wealth Award Winners</b> .....                                   | <b>16</b> |
| <b>Map with Itineraries, Centennial Project and GCV Restorations</b> ..... | <b>18</b> |
| <b>NORTH</b> .....   | <b>20</b> |
| • <i>Roses</i> .....   | 24        |
| • <i>Elizabeth Locke</i> .....   | 26        |
| • <i>Garden Books</i> .....  | 28        |
| • <i>Oak Spring</i> .....  | 32        |
| <b>CENTRAL</b> .....   | <b>36</b> |
| • <i>Mahonia</i> .....   | 41        |
| • <i>Finding Cool</i> .....  | 46        |
| • <i>Todd Dykshorn</i> .....   | 48        |
| • <i>Peggy Singlemann</i> .....  | 50        |
| • <i>Four Seasons</i> .....  | 51        |
| <b>EAST</b> .....  | <b>52</b> |
| • <i>Floral Foam</i> .....   | 58        |
| • <i>Getting Involved</i> .....  | 60        |
| • <i>Pretty Enough to Eat</i> .....  | 63        |
| • <i>Botanical Skincare</i> .....  | 66        |
| • <i>Rain Gardens</i> .....  | 68        |
| • <i>Kitchen Design Trends</i> .....                                       | 70        |
| <b>WEST</b> .....  | <b>72</b> |
| • <i>Garden Tips</i> .....   | 78        |
| • <i>25 Daffodils</i> .....  | 86        |
| • <i>Saving Our Ecosystem</i> .....  | 88        |
| <b>SOUTH</b> .....   | <b>90</b> |
| • <i>Tool Tune-up</i> .....  | 94        |
| • <i>Paw Path</i> .....  | 95        |
| • <i>Restoration Properties</i> .....                                      | 96        |
| • <i>A Landscape Saved</i> .....   | 98        |



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*Historic Garden Week*  
 THE MAGAZINE

**Karen Cauthen Ellsworth**  
 Director of Historic Garden Week and  
 Editor of its publications  
 Karen@VAGardenWeek.org

**Terri Lowman**  
 Administrative Coordinator  
 Terri@VAGardenWeek.org

**Whitney Tigani**  
 Designer

**EDITORIAL ASSISTANCE AND PROOFING**

**Ann Heller**  
 Communications Coordinator  
**Madeline Mayhood**  
 GCV Journal Editor

**Donna Moulton**  
 Photography for cover

**Progress Printing, Lynchburg**  
 Publisher and Distribution

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## A CONVERSATION WITH PAULA PRYKE

As one of the most celebrated floral designers in the world, Paula Pryke embodies what so many of us in the GCV love: flowers. And in these challenging times—of isolation, quarantines and social distancing—the power of the flower is even more profound. Flowers can't help but bring smiles and joy, even in the midst of a pandemic.



REPRINTED FROM THE GCV JOURNAL FALL 2020

*Paula was set to be one of the featured presenters at the Garden Club of Virginia's Founders Day; unfortunately Covid had other plans. But the GCV is nimble and quickly pivoted. Plans are underway for the Centennial Series, which will extend this important milestone into 2021. Stay tuned for details on Paula's rescheduled appearance.*

*In the meantime, Madeline Mayhood, Editor of the GCV Journal recently spoke to this living legend who, over the course of three decades, has built a veritable empire that includes a massive contract flower business, an events division, and a floral and lifestyle consultancy. At one point her signature retail shops were strategically located throughout the greater London area.*

*She's a sought-after speaker, an OBE (Order of the British Empire) award winner and, in her spare time, she's managed to write 18 books, all on floral art. Read on to learn about Paula's early days, her style and her inspirations.*

**Madeline Mayhood:** You were a history teacher, and you're married to the architect Peter Romaniuk. How did you come to have such a successful career in flowers?

**Paula Pryke:** I studied history and drama and, when I met my husband, I was working in a secondary school in East London. I think he gave me the confidence to try something new. I studied at the Constance Spry Flower School and worked in a West End flower shop. Eventually my husband and I bought my first shop in Islington, and we lived above it. At that time teachers earned about £50 a day, and we both naively thought that we could easily earn that out of a flower shop!

At the time I was probably too inexperienced to run my own business but the "fresh and natural" look was an immediate hit, and then the [Islington] area became a magnet for all kinds of creatives. Looking back it was quite amazing who would turn up. Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York, used to call in for flowers; George Harrison used to send a chauffeur. Kate Winslet and Cate Blanchett lived nearby and regularly called in. At the early stages of my business, Boris Johnson, who was also a client, used to cycle by on his way to the Houses of Parliament and complain about our van being in the bike lane when we were unloading it from the flower market at the start of the day.

**MM:** Is there a "Paula Pryke" style and has it changed or evolved over the years?

**PP:** My style has adapted to the trends and changes of the fashion and advertising industry. At heart it has always been natural and simple and colorful. I think the flowers I designed for my first book look very current now. What goes around comes around again, and now I am pretty much back doing what I did at the beginning.

**MM:** What are your favorite flowers/foilage to work with?

**PP:** The list for that question would be endless! However ranunculus, peonies, roses, sweet peas, dahlias would come in my top 10, and I adore bright green like *Viburnum opulus* [snowball viburnum] or *Alchemilla mollis* [lady's mantle], silver foliage such as *Senecio* [dusty miller], burgundy foliage like *Cotinus* [smoketree] and whatever is seasonal—berries in the autumn and blossoms in the spring. Foliage with a little movement such as jasmine and ivy are also staples.

**MM:** What do you consider your most significant accomplishment/honor?

**PP:** At one level it is being able to pick a career with flowers and then make it work for 32 years. To do something you love and to be able to make a business out of it is an amazing and joyous accomplishment. Never more so than during this time.



### PAULA PRYKE'S TOP FIVE TIPS FOR FLOWER ARRANGING

- 1. Check the condition of the flowers you're purchasing.** They may be on the wane, so beware. And unwrap them as soon as possible. Inspect garden flowers in a similar fashion.
- 2. Cut the stems at an oblique angle with a sharp knife, scissors or clippers to achieve maximum surface area.** Avoid bashing or cutting stems vertically, which destroys valuable cell structure, encourages bacteria and obstructs water absorption. Remove any foliage that will sit under the water line, any foliage that's bruised or past its prime or that doesn't enhance the flower.
- 3. Clean buckets with disinfectant or bleach.** Rinse well and then rinse again. Then add lukewarm water mixed with flower food per accompanying instructions. Lukewarm water provides more oxygen to the flowers and is better for their longevity.
- 4. Until you're ready to arrange, store the flowers in well-ventilated area, preferably at around 45°F.** Also keep an eye on the water—a flower will drink 1/3 of its water in the first 12 hours. Make sure not to store them near fruits or vegetables.
- 5. Before arranging, remove any damaged leaves or flowers.** Snip ends for a clean, fresh cut.



## NATURALLY ARRANGING WITH PAULA PRYKE: *A Demonstration*

Pictured here is Paula's arrangement of cappuccino roses, pink garden roses, dahlias, straw flowers, Queen Anne's lace, echinacea and clematis seed heads; foliage includes jasmine, crabapples, sloe berries (blackthorn) and English oak with acorns.

### MATERIALS:

- ✿ Chicken wire
- ✿ Vase
- ✿ Clippers, sharpened
- ✿ Flowers and foliage, your preference



### MECHANICS

- Before making any natural arrangement, I work out the mechanics first.
- I use two-inch chicken wire molded and shaped inside the vase, and then I gather as many different types of seasonal foliage with a goal of creating a natural effect.



### ADD FOLIAGE

- My rule is to use a minimum of three types of foliage, but the more diversity the better. It's best to have some with an upright habit and some trailing. I don't use variegated foliage very often as it dilutes color.
- I first add foliage to cover the mechanics and outline the general shape. Foliage also provides structure, which I can use to position my flowers.



### ADD FLOWERS

- Next I add flowers. I usually add one variety at a time at different angles and depths within the arrangement.
- I also avoid white and cream in a bold arrangement as it neutralizes the color effect and draws your eye, almost creating a distraction.
- Color is very important to me, but I also pick flowers and foliage for texture—the clematis and echinacea seed heads have been chosen for that.

### TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

In addition to selecting the right flowers and foliage, having the right equipment is essential for great floral design. Paula recommends the following be in every designer's tool kit:

**ESSENTIALS:** 1 Good sharp knife 2 Strong, sharp pair of scissors 3 Stem stripper 4 Roll of bind wire (wire with an exterior paper coating to protect stems) 5 Flower food 6 Buckets, cleaners and brushes 7 Florist tape (preferably the clear variety) 8 Watering cans 9 Variety of vases. **EXTRAS:** 1 Chicken wire 2 Water tubes 3 Zip ties 4 Wires (variety of gauges) 5 Bamboo skewers (for skewering heavy fruits and veggies) 6 Pins 7 Decorative embellishments (e.g. raffia, jute, ribbons)

**MM:** There is a growing movement in the floral industry in the United States that emphasizes sustainability—from responsibly sourcing plant material to avoiding flowers treated with chemicals and discouraging the use of floral foam. Is the overall move toward a more sustainable floral industry something important in England and in your ethos specifically?

**PP:** Yes. The Chelsea Flower Show will make 2021 its year to catch up with this movement that has been gaining traction for the last five years in the UK and worldwide. I never used a lot of floral foam and plastic in my work, but now I am making a very conscious effort to work in a sustainable way. I try to make sure that my flower arrangements are in line with the best practices for the environment and nature from which I take my inspiration. If I need to use something similar to floral foam, I use Agrawool, which is biodegradable. I prefer to hand tie my flowers or use chicken wire, which allows the flowers to be in water. It actually creates a more natural look, which of course is back in vogue now.

**MM:** What and where is your favorite garden in the world?

**PP:** Levens Hall, in Cumbria in Northern England. It's the oldest topiary garden in the world. I like the fact that it was spared when fashions changed and others ripped out their topiaries. I love the thought that it was first designed in the 1690s and still looks amazing. It also is a fun garden—it makes me smile.

Follow @levensgardener for beautiful seasonal shots of Elizabethan England.



### TURN THESE PAGES

Paula Pryke's first book, *The New Floral Artist*, debuted in 1996 and immediately catapulted her into international floral stardom. Since then, Rizzoli has published 17 additional titles, which have been translated into over a dozen languages. They include *Seasonal Wreaths & Bouquets*, *Wedding Flowers*, *Everyday Flowers*, *Table Flowers* and *Paula Pryke Flower School*. Her books are renowned for being packed with ideas and creativity. They are resourceful, accessible and inspirational and contain step-by-step instructions for a myriad of projects. Her most recent title is *The Art of Flower Arranging* (2017).



## PAULA'S FAVORITES

### GARDEN FLOWERS

Roses • Scabiosas • Cosmos  
Zinnias • Sweet Peas • Hellebores  
Chrysanthemums • Dahlias  
Hydrangeas • Lilacs

### FOLIAGE

Pussy willow • Snowball viburnum  
Cotinus • Rose hips • Snowberry  
Hypericum • Oak • Beech

*All photos courtesy of Paula Pryke*

# A GREENER VISION

A lot has changed in the past 100 years, but the work of the Garden Club of Virginia has not.

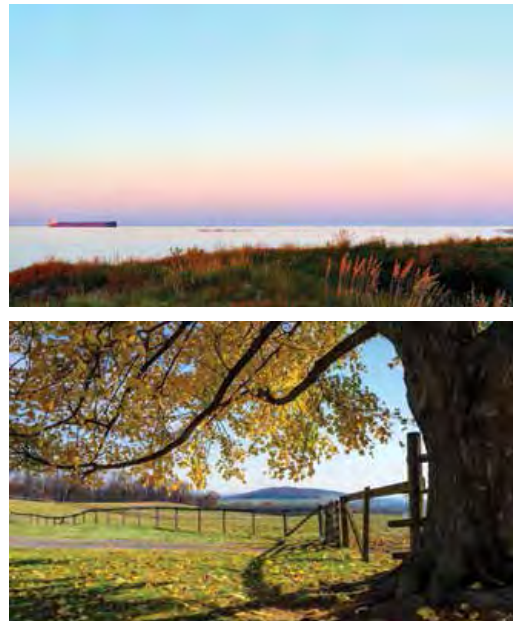
BY JEANETTE CADWALLENDER, THE RAPPAHANNOCK VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

The women of the Garden Club of Virginia have always had their own way of getting things done. Be it wielding axes against unsightly billboards or making tree tags to properly name (and save) every tree on Richmond's Capitol Square, the results are the same — a greener, more beautiful Virginia for all to enjoy. This year marks the 100th anniversary of this female-led organization.



Photo courtesy of Donna Moulton

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.



Photos courtesy of Roderick Perkinson, Christine Hoggan, William Thomas and Scenic Virginia

Garden Club of Virginia members know their watershed address, carry reusable shopping bags, eschew plastics, refill water bottles and celebrate compost. They promote the natural world. Their work funds restorations that expand the interpretations of Virginia's historic properties. Today's GCV members are amused by the lingering perception of ladies in their best day dresses with hats and gloves holding meetings over afternoon tea. Garden gloves and sun hats are more like it.

Local clubs, of which there are 48 across the state, model their programs on the themes emphasized by the Garden Club of Virginia (GCV), but celebrate their autonomy. Just as the statewide non-profit promotes environmentalism, horticulture, flower arranging and civic beautification, so does each local club. Together, these clubs represent nearly 3,500 volunteers and civic leaders in communities both large and small.

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.

There is no denying the natural beauty of Virginia. As Europeans settled on land that the indigenous people had

understood for centuries, they put their signature on the topography. They developed an agricultural economy that molded the future of the state. As the colonists extended their conquest from the tidewater to the piedmont and beyond, they made adaptations for their needs and what the land required of them.

Tobacco production, while the most valuable economic driver, took a toll on the soil in 17th century Virginia. By the 18th century, agriculture had expanded, and the economy rose to depend on iron exportation, coal and flour, moved by the rivers and then, in the 19th century, the railroad. Automobiles allowed for increased transportation and mobility in the 20th century. Goods and people could be moved more quickly. This modern change brought with it significant consequences — both positive and negative.

The women of the Garden Club of Virginia noticed how many new roads altered the landscape with signs and billboards. Women of action, they lobbied for limits on the placement of billboards and personally removed signs along the roads. Legendary stories from the mid-1930s tell of GCV members using axes to remove billboards and covering advertisements that had been painted on rocks.

To preserve the natural beauty of the state, they drew upon tourism. To this day the revenue from tourism generated by the

GCV's most well-known public program, Historic Garden Week, is vital to our state's economy. An economic impact study (Chmura Economics and Analytics 2019) credits this popular annual event with \$518 million in economic impact to the state since 1969, and \$12.5 million each year. The first Historic Garden Week was held in 1929 and drew visitors from all over the country.

The scale of this signature event is unprecedented. This spring it will include eight days of continuous touring in 30 different communities featuring nearly 140 private properties. For the garden lover it has few comparisons; for the state, this lifeline funds the ongoing restoration and preservation of Virginia's historic public gardens and landscapes, and a research fellowship program for landscape architects.

The variety of Historic Garden Week restoration projects include the gardens at the homes of four United States Presidents, grounds of historic churchyards, projects at the Executive Mansion, courthouse landscapes, the grounds of a public high school, university and college campuses, a mill and significant public, historic (and hence the event's name) gardens from the Eastern Shore to the Blue Ridge.

In light of modern interpretations, recent restoration projects such as the

Continued on page 17.





Today, communities across the state benefit from having a GCV member club in their cities and towns.



Clubs compete for generous grants to support local projects with the Common Wealth and Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Awards. Projects that benefit conservation, beautification, horticulture, preservation or education are considered for the Common Wealth Award. Trees have been planted, educational projects launched, and civic landscapes and gardens planned and installed. Successful projects include:

**COMMON WEALTH AWARD WINNERS**

- **2020 Living Green Wall at the Brock Environmental Center**, The Virginia Beach Garden Club
- **Enhancing The Visitor Center Through Educational Signage**, Mill Mountain Garden Club
- **2019 Peter Paul Development Center and Playground Enhancement**  
The Boxwood Garden Club
- **2018 1st Place: Urban Garden Invites Youth to "Dream a Different Future"**  
The Elizabeth River Garden Club
- **2nd Place: Project Dogwood- A Hundred Year Journey**  
The Augusta Garden Club
- **2017 1st Place: The Healing Grove at Boulder Crest Retreat**  
Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club
- **2017 2nd Place: The Lee Park Wildflower and Bird Sanctuary**  
The Petersburg Garden Club
- **2016 The Academy Center of the Arts Tree Garden**  
Hillside Garden Club
- **2015 Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention Center**  
The Charlottesville and Rivanna Garden Clubs
- **2014 1st Place: The Ashland Train Station**  
The Ashland Garden Club
- **2nd Place: Canal Walk in Great Shiplock Park**  
The Boxwood, James River, Three Chopt and Tuckahoe Garden Clubs
- **2013 1st Place: Chatham Manor Garden Beautification**  
The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club
- **2nd Place: First Landing State Park**  
The Princess Anne Garden Club
- **2012 The Miller-Claytor House Garden**  
The Lynchburg Garden Club
- **2011 Hatton Ferry**  
Rivanna Garden Club
- **2010 Butterfly and Sensory Garden at St. Mary's Home**  
Harborfront Garden Club
- **2009 Anne Spencer Garden**  
Hillside Garden Club
- **2008 A Fort Called Christanna and its Indian Trading Center**  
The Brunswick Garden Club
- **2007 Camp Still Meadows**  
The Spotswood Garden Club
- **2006 1st Place: Cedar Hill Project Heritage Garden**  
The Nansemond River Garden Club

- **2nd Place: Morea: A Living Botanical Classroom**  
Albemarle
- **2005 Virginia's Botanical History, 1607 to Today**  
The Huntington Garden Club
- **2004 Bandy Field Nature Park**  
The Boxwood Garden Club and The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton
- **2003 Camp Still Meadows**  
The Spotswood Garden Club
- **2002 Cape Charles Central Park**  
The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore
- **2001 Virginia Native Plant Garden**  
The Garden Club of Norfolk
- **2000 The Chamber Walk**  
The Franklin Garden Club and
- **Washington Park Renovation**  
Albemarle Garden Club
- **1999 Discover Garden for Williamsburg's Children**  
The Williamsburg Garden Club;
- **The Fauquier Outdoor Lab**  
The Warrenton Garden Club
- **Plants and Planters for the Virginia Museum of Transportation**  
Roanoke Valley Garden Club
- **1998 A Legacy of Wildflowers**  
The Petersburg Garden Club;
- **Richmond's Library Park**  
The Boxwood, James River, Three Chopt and Tuckahoe Garden Clubs
- **1997 Landscaping at the Ivy Creek Natural Area**  
Rivanna Garden Club
- **1996 Roots and Shoots Project**  
The Blue Ridge Garden Club
- **1995 Old City Cemetery Gate House**  
Hillside Garden Club
- **1994 Memorial Hospital Roof Garden**  
Gabriella Garden Club
- **1993 Landscaping the deWitt Cottage Garden**  
The Princess Anne Garden Club
- **1992 Landscaping at Shalom-et-Benedictus Treatment Center**  
Winchester-Clarke Garden Club;
- **Landscaping the Central Rappahannock Regional Library**  
The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club
- **1991 Virginia Living Museums Backyard Habitat**  
The Huntington Garden Club;
- **Landscaping at Shalom-et-Benedictus Treatment Center**  
Winchester-Clarke Garden Club;

- **Gardens at Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury Retirement Community**  
The Garden Club of the Northern Neck
- **1990 Wildflowers at the Seaside at the Virginia Marine Science Museum**  
The Virginia Beach Garden Club
- **1989 Scholarship to Port Isabel Island**  
The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore
- **1988 The Mill Mountain Wildflower Garden**  
The Mill Mountain Garden Club;
- **Landscaping the University of Virginia Fraternity Grounds**  
The Charlottesville Garden Club;
- **Landscaping the Virginia Museum of Natural History**  
The Garden Study Club
- **1987 Miller School Arboretum**  
Rivanna Garden Club;
- **Operation Plant A Tree**  
The Lynchburg Garden Club
- **1986 Belle Boyd Cottage Garden Project**  
The Garden Club of Warren County
- **Preservation and Clearing Rosewell**  
The Garden Club of Gloucester
- **1985 Completion of the Anne Spencer Garden**  
Hillside Garden Club;
- **Landscaping the Eastern Shore Public Library**  
The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore;
- **Courtyard Garden at the University of Virginia Hospital**  
The Charlottesville Garden Club;
- **Miller School Arboretum**  
The Rivanna Garden Club Garden;
- **Roanoke Transportation Museum**  
Roanoke Valley Garden Club
- **1984 Landscaping at Northern Virginia Center for Mentally Handicapped**  
The Garden Club of Fairfax;
- **Trees at the Miller School**  
The Rivanna Garden Club;
- **Boxwood plantings at the Hermitage Foundation**  
The Garden Club of Norfolk
- **1983 "Welcome to Virginia" planting areas**  
The GCV Conservation and Beautification Committee
- **1982 Landscaping at Douglass Community Center & Park**  
The Leesburg Garden Club
- **1981 Educating Youth for Environmental Service**  
The Princess Anne Garden Club
- **1980 Landscaping the Entrance to the C&O Walking Trail**  
The Blue Ridge Garden Club

“Unless we... have some reason for existence other than just pleasurable, [we will] die a natural death. It is to us that all eyes are turning for not only support, but leadership... [as] the American people [are] turning their desires toward greater beauty of environment.”

VIOLET NILES WALKER, THIRD GCV PRESIDENT 1924-26

Continued from page 15.  
Valentine — Jackson Memorial Garden at the Executive Mansion and the Mulberry Row Kitchen Road restoration at Monticello have attempted to complete the story of all those who lived at these important sites. The preservation focus has also extended beyond the state borders. Proceeds from Historic Garden Week tours have been shared with Charleston, SC, and New Orleans, LA, after Hurricanes Hugo and Katrina. Monetary aid was sent to England and France during WWII.



A green arrow sign has been consistently used to guide visitors to Historic Garden Week sites. GCV members have likewise embraced a green vision, one of conservation and beautification. To the organization's founders in 1920, the view of the landscape was, and remains, extensive. It is an understanding that passionately embraces the natural world and works to preserve clean air and clean water.

The GCV has lobbied to preserve scenic areas of the state. The early efforts with various conservation partners, led to land being set aside for National and State Parks, to the preservation of the Goshen Pass in Rockbridge County and passage of the Ball Bill which protects native plants. Today the club monitors environmental threats attributed to climate change, advocates for the continuation of the moratorium on uranium mining and focuses on responsible land use planning.



Photos on this spread courtesy of Roger Foley, Donna Moulton, Catriona Tudor Erler, Richard A. Koth, Warren Faught and Amanda Jolly

GARDEN CLUB  
OF VIRGINIA

# Historic Garden Week

April 17-24, 2021

**GCV 2020 Centennial Project: State Parks**

Bear Creek Lake, Cumberland  
Belle Isle, Lancaster  
Caledon, King George  
Chippokes, Surry  
Claytor Lake, Dublin  
Douthat, Millboro  
Fairy Stone, Stuart  
Holliday Lake, Appomattox  
Hungry Mother, Marion  
James River, Gladston  
Kiptopeke, Cape Charles  
Lake Anna, Spotsylvania  
Leesylvania, Woodbridge  
Mason Neck, Lorton  
Middle Peninsula, Gloucester  
Natural Bridge, Natural Bridge  
Natural Tunnel, Duffield  
New River Trail, Max Meadows  
Pocahontas, Chesterfield  
Sailors Creek Historic Battlefield, Rice  
Seven Bends, Woodstock  
Shenandoah River, Bentonville  
Sky Meadows, Delaplane  
Smith Mountain Lake, Huddleston  
Staunton River, Scottsburg  
Staunton River Battlefield, Randolph  
Westmoreland, Montross  
Wide Water, Stafford  
York River, Williamsburg  
Youth Conservation Corps, Richmond

**WEST**

**Saturday, April 17**  
Staunton

**Sunday, April 18**  
Private gardens in Albemarle County

**Monday April 19**  
Monticello, Montpelier and James River State Park

**Tuesday, April 20**  
Lynchburg

**Wednesday, April 21**  
Harrisonburg

**Thursday, April 22 & Friday, April 23**  
Goshen Pass and Natural Bridge

**Saturday, April 24**  
Lexington

**NORTH**

**Saturday, April 17**  
Old Town Alexandria

**Sunday, April 18 & Monday April 19**  
Sky Meadows State Park, State Arboretum in Boyce, Green Springs Garden in Alexandria

**Tuesday, April 20**  
McLean

**Wednesday, April 21 & Thursday, April 22**  
Warrenton

**Friday, April 23 & Saturday, April 24**  
Middleburg and/or Oak Spring, or Clarke County

**EAST**

**Saturday, April 17**  
Suffolk, Gloucester or James River Plantations

**Sunday, April 18 & Monday April 19**  
James River Plantations

**Tuesday, April 20**  
Williamsburg

**Wednesday, April 21**  
Hampton – Newport News or Virginia Beach

**Thursday, April 22**  
Norfolk

**Friday, April 23**  
Middle Peninsula

**Saturday, April 24**  
Eastern Shore

**SOUTH**

**Wednesday, April 21**  
Martinsville

**Thursday, April 22**  
Danville/Chatham

**Friday, April 23**  
Fairy Stone State Park or Smith Mountain Lake State Park  
*If heading east:*  
Staunton River State Park or Occoneechee State Park

**Saturday, April 24**  
Roanoke or South Hill

**CENTRAL**

**Saturday, April 17**  
Ashland or James River Plantations (Westover, Shirley and Berkeley)

**Sunday, April 18 & Monday April 19**  
James River Plantations

**Tuesday, April 20**  
Petersburg, Fredericksburg or Richmond: Private gardens in Hampton Gardens

**Wednesday, April 21**  
Richmond: Church Hill or Northern Neck

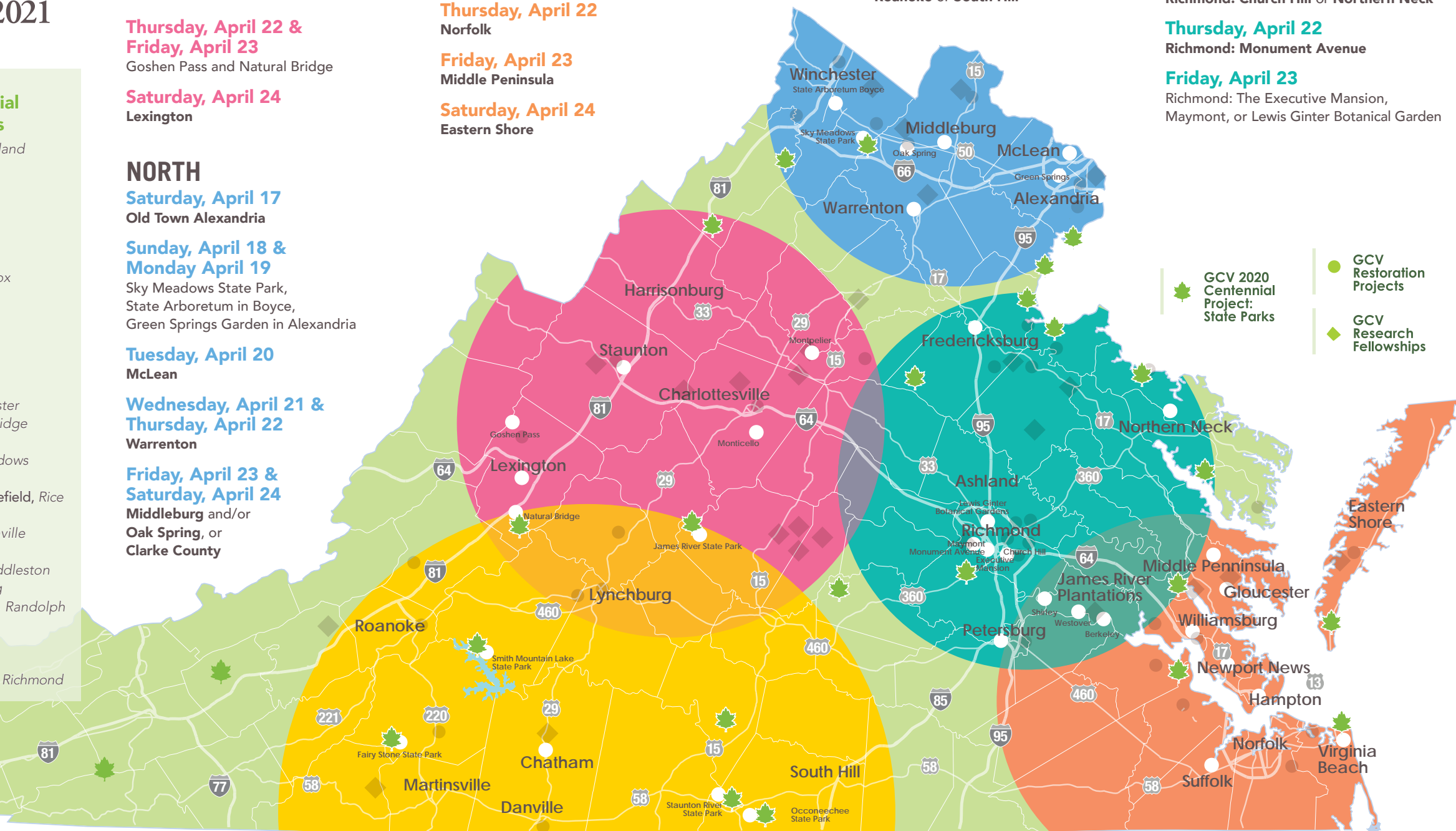
**Thursday, April 22**  
Richmond: Monument Avenue

**Friday, April 23**  
Richmond: The Executive Mansion, Maymont, or Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

**GCV Restoration Projects**

Adam Thoroughgood House, Virginia Beach\*  
Bacon's Castle, Surry  
Belle Grove, Middletown  
Belmont, Fredericksburg  
Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg  
Burwell-Morgan Mill, Millwood  
Centre Hill Mansion, Petersburg  
Christ Church-Lancaster, Irvington  
Danville Museum of Fine Arts & History, Danville  
Executive Mansion Capitol Square, Richmond  
Fincastle Presbyterian Church, Fincastle  
Grace Arents Garden, Richmond  
Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria  
Gunston Hall, Mason Neck\*  
Historic Henry County Courthouse, Martinsville  
Portsmouth Arts & Cultural Center, Portsmouth  
Historic Smithfield, Blacksburg\*  
Historic St. Luke's Church, Smithfield\*  
Hollins University, Roanoke  
John Handley High School, Winchester  
Kenmore, Fredericksburg  
Kent-Valentine House, Richmond  
Ker Place, Onancock  
Lee Hall, Newport News  
Mary Washington House, Fredericksburg  
Mary Washington Monument, Fredericksburg  
Maymont, Richmond  
Monticello, Charlottesville  
Montpelier, Montpelier Station  
Moses Myers House, Norfolk  
Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon  
Oatlands, Leesburg  
Poe Museum, Richmond  
Point of Honor, Lynchburg  
Poplar Forest, Lynchburg  
Prestrwood Plantation, Clarksville\*  
Scotchtown, Beaverdam\*  
Smith's Fort Plantation, Surry  
St. John's Mews, Richmond  
State Arboretum of Virginia, Blandly Experimental Farm, Boyce  
Stratford Hall, Stratford  
Sweet Briar College, Amherst  
University of Virginia, Charlottesville  
Washington and Lee University, Lexington  
William & Mary, Reveley Garden, Williamsburg\*\*  
Wilton, Richmond  
Woodlawn, Alexandria\*  
Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library, Staunton  
Yeardley House, Jamestown\*

\* No Longer Under Contract  
\*\* In Progress



# TRAVEL STORY

# NORTH

**Hosted by:** The Garden Club of Alexandria, Dolley Madison Garden Club, The Garden Club of Fairfax, Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club, The Hunting Creek Garden Club, Leesburg Garden Club, The Little Garden Club of Winchester, The Garden Club of Warren County, The Warrenton Garden Club and Winchester-Clarke Garden Club

*Photo above courtesy of Donna Moulton*

Make Northern Virginia your home base during a week of touring.

#### OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

Overlooking the Potomac River with views of our nation's capital, Old Town Alexandria radiates charm while safeguarding its rich historic roots. Established in 1749, Alexandria was a major seaport prior to the Revolutionary War, occupied by Union troops during the Civil War, and a torpedo production site during World War II.

In 1946, Alexandria was the third city in the country to establish a historic district to preserve its architectural heritage. This easy walking tour includes private gardens nestled along the tree-lined streets of the Historic District, as well as the sanctuary at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Wander through narrow alleys and enchanting walled gardens.

#### GREEN SPRINGS GARDEN IN ALEXANDRIA

On Sunday and Monday explore additional sites in the area that have been Garden Club of Virginia (GCV) projects funded by Historic Garden Week tour proceeds over the last 88 years. Virginia's only Beatrix Farrand garden, Green Springs, is located in Alexandria on property originally farmed by freeholder John Moss in 1784.

Over 150 years later, young power couple Michael and Belinda Straight bought the house and 33 acres, and engaged Farrand to design a simple garden room behind the house: a spacious lawn enclosed by a boxwood crescent with a stone retaining wall. The GCV restored the stone wall, rejuvenated the boxwoods, and redesigned a more recently installed perennial bed to reflect Farrand's signature plant choices. In 1970, the Straights deeded their house and nearly half of their land to the Fairfax County Park Authority, making this year the garden's 50th anniversary as a public space.



*Photo courtesy of Louise Kraft*



#### STATE ARBORETUM IN BOYCE

About 76 miles north in Boyce is the State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy Plantation. Left in a bequest to the University of Virginia in 1926, Blandy was originally part of a larger historic antebellum estate named the Tuleyeres. The arboretum is nestled on 172 acres within this property and is anchored by a large brick structure built in 1825. The east wing, also known as "The Quarters," housed the Tuley family for a short time while the manor home was being constructed and later served as the living quarters for the enslaved people. Expanded in 1945, this structure was subsequently used to house faculty and to provide laboratory space for the University of Virginia.

Numerous trails meander through the property which contain 5,000 different varieties of trees and shrubs. Highlights



**Saturday, April 17**  
Old Town Alexandria

**Sunday, April 18 & Monday April 19**

Sky Meadows State Park, State Arboretum in Boyce, Green Springs Garden in Alexandria

**Tuesday, April 20**  
McLean

**Wednesday, April 21 & Thursday, April 22**  
Warrenton

**Friday, April 23 & Saturday, April 24**  
Middleburg and/or Oak Spring, or Clarke County

*Photo above left courtesy of Missy Janes*



include a ginkgo grove that includes 300 trees, a Cedar of Lebanon allée, an herbaceous garden, a native plant trail, as well as the American Boxwood Society's Memorial Garden, home to 162 varieties of boxwood. A GCV restoration site, Dogwood Lane and its original stone walls were rebuilt in 2004 along a road that once led from the manor house to the farm using proceeds from Historic Garden Week.

**SKY MEADOWS STATE PARK**

Sky Meadows State Park was the recipient of three grants made possible through a Centennial project with Virginia State Parks celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Garden Club of Virginia this past May. The grants helped complete Phase III of a trail system providing over 22 miles of sustainable trails with an overlying program of intermodal access for all ages and abilities. This beautiful public land was formed when Paul Mellon donated 1,132 acres of land in 1975. Another 248 acres, containing the Appalachian Trail, was added in 1987, and in 1991 Mr. Mellon gifted an additional 462 acres. With scenic views, woodlands and the rolling pastures of a historic farm, the park is a highlight of the Crooked Run Valley.

**MCLEAN**

On Tuesday wander the grounds of a spectacular gated estate known as Ballantrae Farm, which sits on six plus acres of rolling farmland in the heart of McLean. Named for John Roll McLean, owner and publisher of the *Washington Post* during the early 1900s, McLean is known for its



Photos courtesy of Edie Hessberg

luxury homes, high-end shopping and is home to diplomats, business owners and government officials. This driving and walking tour showcases the extensive gardens and landscaped grounds of the estate, including the Colonial revival manor house built in 1925, a restored farmhouse, entertaining areas, swimming pool, a sunken tennis court and a tree house with a playground.

Perennial beds, a kitchen garden and hundreds of bulbs surround a bath house, pool pavilion with fireplace and

gazebo and a koi pond. Flower arranging demonstrations and garden talks will take place throughout the day. A magnificent white oak tree, estimated to be 250 to 300 years old, overhangs the home's front entrance.

Another elegant estate offers a verdant acre of gardens framed by boxwood. The step-down terrace overlooking the carriage house and pergola is surrounded by flowering trees and fountains. In addition,

explore 95 acres of ornamental display gardens, the Korean Bell Garden and unique native plant collections at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in nearby Vienna.

**WARRENTON**

On Wednesday and Thursday, enjoy wooded hills and elegant estates in Warrenton, a 37-mile drive from McLean, and a two-day tour. The gateway to Virginia's Piedmont, Warrenton offers bucolic horse country and a vibrant Old Town with shopping, dining and galleries. Visit sites located in the rolling acres of the Warrenton Hunt, including a property named in 1939 as one of the two most beautiful homes in America by the American and French Society of Architects. Explore gardens tucked away behind bustling streets in the Old Town area, including a native plant garden designed for an urban setting.

**MIDDLEBURG**

Stay in Virginia's Hunt Country on Friday and Saturday for Middleburg's two-day tour, only 21 miles from Warrenton. Featured private properties are all on Historic Garden Week for the first time. A particularly outstanding outdoor space includes formal gardens replete with English and American boxwood,

towering holly trees, sculpture and perennial gardens, and a spectacular center allée of peonies.

A redbud arch leads to a heated pool and stone patio adjoining the pool house. A recently installed reflecting pool and fountain designed by renowned landscape designer Barry Starke adds to the tranquil elegance. A special ticket allows access to the Oak Spring property, once the home of Paul and "Bunny" Mellon. Visitors will be delighted by the diversity of the grand estates and landscapes on both touring options in the Middleburg area.

**CLARKE COUNTY**

Take a step back in time on the final day of Historic Garden Week in Clarke County, nestled in the Shenandoah Valley and just 70 miles from the nation's capital. The picturesque area consists mostly of horse and agricultural farms with roots back to the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Many of the farms are in conservation easement, preserving the county's rural character beloved by residents and visitors. Featured private properties date from the 18th through the 20th centuries. Highlights include numerous formal gardens, a Japanese garden, a restored brick stable (one of the few left standing after the Civil War), and Blakemore, a private cemetery. Visitors will especially enjoy access to an architecturally stunning orangery and a glass conservancy.

*The Garden Club of Virginia is truly grateful for the steadfast commitment from our partners through their support of Historic Garden Week 2020, despite its cancellation. Special thanks to local 2020 Honor Roll sponsors and to Guidebook advertisers, listed here alphabetically and by the North region.*

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- Nancy Perkins— Sotheby's Realty, Old Town Alexandria
- Pearl Erber RE/MAX Xecutex, Fairfax
- State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy, Clarke County
- The Country Club of Fairfax, Fairfax
- The Mather, Fairfax
- Shenandoah Valley Westminster-Canterbury, Clarke County

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Virginia Living magazine &  
Virginia Public Media

# ROSES

## FOR FIRST TIME GROWERS

BY PATSY SMITH,  
WINCHESTER-CLARKE GARDEN CLUB

Although the idea of growing roses might seem daunting, caring for roses is easier than you think. With the proper conditions and simple maintenance, roses will reward you with blooms five to six months out of the year. Shrub roses and floribundas are no more difficult to care for than other flowering shrubs. You still have time to add new roses to your landscape because winter is the best time to plant bare-root roses; while they are dormant.

Planting now ensures they are established before the brutal heat of summer begins. If you prefer starting with potted plants, roses are normally available at garden centers in early spring.

### HERE ARE SOME TIPS:

#### Sunlight

Most roses require a minimum of six hours of direct sunlight per day, but if you have partial shade many old garden roses may still thrive and would be an excellent choice.

#### Soil

Need balanced soil with a pH of 6.0-6.5. To test the balance of acidity to alkalinity, use a pH meter, an inexpensive tool available at home improvement centers or on the internet.

#### Water

Roses hate living in a swimming pool. Good drainage is key. Test your hole by digging 18" wide and 18" deep, fill the hole with water and wait 30 minutes. If the water has completely drained away, you have sufficient drainage.

#### Fertilizer

They are constant feeders. Use a time release or organic fertilizer that breaks down slowly. Don't fertilize new roses with anything else until after the first bloom cycle.

Portraits in Oil




Anne Jerome Cobb  
www.annecobb.com  
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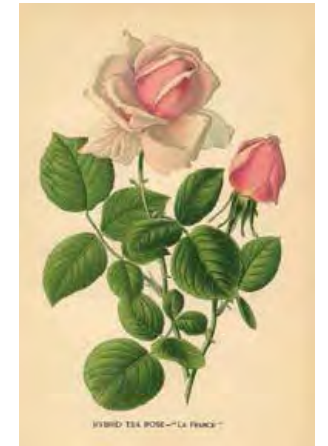
Explore Gunston Hall's newly restored Riverside Garden.

SPRING 2021

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**GUNSTON HALL**

WWW.GUNSTONHALL.ORG

10709 GUNSTON ROAD | MASON NECK, VA 22079



**TRIED-AND-TRUE ROSES RECOMMENDED FOR GARDENERS JUST GETTING STARTED:**

*'Carefree Beauty'*  
is a reliable pink shrub that is a repeat-bloomer.

*'Iceberg'*  
is a vigorous white floribunda, a type of rose that blooms profusely and comes in a variety of colors.

*'Julia Child'*  
is a golden butter colored repeat bloomer.

*'Don Juan'*  
is a deep-red climber with large, perfumy flowers that are excellent cut flowers.

*'Peace'*  
is a well-known light yellow hybrid tea, slightly flushed at the petal edges with darker pink.

*'Queen Elizabeth'*  
is a stately pink grandiflora and one of the most widely grown roses in the world.

*'Knock Out'*  
roses are disease resistant shrubs that come in red, pink, yellow or white and repeat bloom from spring through early fall. There are compact varieties and even a coral pink version. They are especially easy to care for and offer an especially long show of blooms from spring to frost.



This spring, each tour will offer a limited amount of tickets, and some of our larger tours will offer timed tickets. Tickets will only be available online at VAGardenWeek.org. Please check our website in mid-January for tickets and for updated information regarding touring logistics and protocols.

# A Crown Jewel

**Elizabeth Locke loves her gardens and has a soft spot for dahlias.**

No wonder, these exuberant late season stunners are known for their vibrant colors and wow factor, not unlike her unique jewelry designs created over a luminous 32-year career.

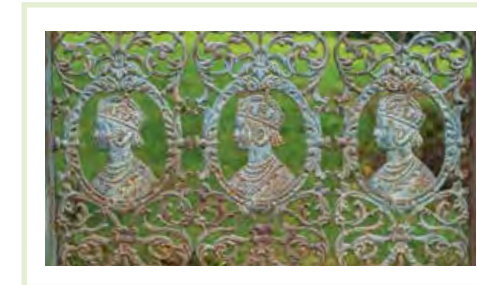


Photo courtesy of Patricia Lyons

**H**er work draws on a lifelong fascination with the antique jewelry of the Etruscans, Greeks and Romans as she creates her own neoclassical hand-made 19k gold jewelry. She selects every stone and designs every piece herself. While many covet the luminescent stones or the Venetian glass intaglios in her designs, Elizabeth's deepest passion is for one-of-a-kind antiquities: 19th-century micro mosaics and pietra duras, 18th-century Chinese gambling counters, Essex crystals, miniature paintings and antique Japanese porcelain buttons.

The search for the perfect bit of history to incorporate into her designs takes Elizabeth flying around the globe to European markets, antique shows and auctions in what she terms the "continual treasure hunt." The antique porcelain button turns into a pendant or brooch, and the 2,000-year-old coin transforms into a ring or cufflinks, continuing Elizabeth's artistic vision and the craftsmanship of 35 Thai goldsmiths dedicated to bringing her designs to life using centuries-old goldsmithing techniques.

Elizabeth spoke with Immediate Past President of the Garden Club of Virginia, Jean Gilpin, a personal friend and neighbor, on a walk-about of Elizabeth's garden at Clay Hill.



**Jean:** Tell me how your fascination with antiquity began.

**Elizabeth:** My love of the classics began at age 11, when my father took me to Italy for the first time. I became enchanted with the graceful goddesses, sphinxes and caryatids. Right then I decided to learn to speak Italian and move to Italy. I kept both promises to myself and ended up receiving a graduate degree in Italian literature from the University of Florence. I spent years running my first business in Italy.

**Jean:** When did you decide to focus your creative energy on jewelry design?

**Elizabeth:** After moving back to the United States, I initially worked as a contributing editor for Town and Country magazine. A story on shopping in Bangkok turned out to be a life-altering event and eventually led me to a degree in gemology, which of course, has become my life's vocation.

**Jean:** You have become an important figure in the design world, and your life experiences have been so exciting and adventurous. With the advent of COVID-19, I'm sure your

travel abroad has been challenging. How have you adjusted to a more secluded lifestyle in Millwood?

**Elizabeth:** Like everyone else my travel wings have been definitely clipped since the end of February when I unknowingly walked through Dulles Airport for the last time unaware of the changes that lay ahead. In "normal" times I would travel between five and six months out of the year. For the first time in 32 years I spent the entire month of March in Virginia and it was a revelation in the best sense of the word.

Every day in the morning and afternoon Violette the cat and I would make our slow circuit around the gardens to observe the changes that this beautiful month brought on a daily basis. Since then, we have been gardening non-stop with a large vegetable garden, lots of borders of cut flowers and the largest planting of dahlias ever. It has been wonderful!

With the sudden shock to my business I was "retired" overnight and all of the energy that I normally would have focused on designing jewelry was addressed to homemaking, reading and gardening. I truly believe that the garden helped keep me stable. As things have begun to open up again my devotion to all of my plants has not waned at all, and I don't think that in the future it will. To daily see the force and creativity of nature is beautiful, humbling and inspiring. 🌿

**"This is a lovely and remote area in Virginia, I can't just whiz down to the local florist—there isn't one! I make bouquets with whatever's growing, even if it's a bunch of parsley." —ELIZABETH LOCKE**



Photo courtesy of Edie Hessberg

Elizabeth Locke opened her spectacular property in the idyllic village of Millwood in support of Historic Garden Week in 2015 and is doing so again this spring.

You too can enjoy Elizabeth's personal garden on the Clarke County tour taking place on April 24, 2021.

Tickets available in mid-January, [VAGardenWeek.org](http://VAGardenWeek.org).

The Other Elizabeth, 17 East Main Street in Boyce, will also be open on tour day.



**READERS' PICKS**  
STORIES FOR GARDENERS

Compiled by Karen Cauthen Ellsworth, Editor of *Historic Garden Week — The Magazine* and Heidi James, The Lynchburg Garden Club and GCV Horticulture Chairman

**A Honeybee Heart Has Five Openings: A Year of Keeping Bees**  
By Helen Jukes



A true story, Jukes is in a funk when we meet her. She doesn't like her job, she's not in a romantic relationship, then her friends give her a hive. Apparently, a hive freely given brings good luck, but also a lot of

responsibility. As the author embarks on her first year of beekeeping, it's just as much about learning about how to nurture herself. This charming book explains the history and how to's of taking care of bees. If you care about bees and our planet this deft metaphor for finding one's true passion is sure to please.

**American Gardens**  
By Monty Don



Recently published, this new book by a renowned British horticulturist, garden writer and broadcaster, is the most recent in a series that showcase the world's most important

and well-known gardens. This newest installment documents visits across America to some of our most historic outdoor spaces including Monticello, Longwood Gardens, Lurie Garden, New York City's Central Park and Seattle Spheres. Filled with lush photographs by Derry Moore, it complements the BBC television series by the same name.

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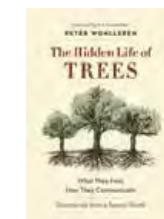
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**The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate — Discoveries from a Secret World**  
By Peter Wohlleben



If you are one of those people who love language and get a little swoony with beautifully constructed prose, this book will be especially appreciated. Consider that it was originally written in German and translated, this subtle yet profound read by a professional forester is even more impressive, managing to be appealingly geeky and even a bit mystical. You will learn the scientific processes behind the lifecycle of a forest — the life, death and regeneration that takes place over so many years that most people are completely oblivious to it. Trees are not individuals but parts of a community. A forest is an ecosystem; being part of it benefits the group. Wohlleben's idea of a "wood-wide-web" of soil fungi, that makes it possible for trees to share information to protect and benefit their community, is fascinating.

**Animal, Vegetable, Miracle — A Year of Food Life**  
By Barbara Kingsolver



The first book of non-fiction by award-winning author and Pulitzer Prize nominee also has a Virginia connection. The concept behind this family story first published in 2007 was way before its time. Told in seasons, the first chapter is titled "Asparagus." After moving from Arizona to the far southwestern tip of Virginia, Kingsolver and her family begin a year of hyper local living. Nothing is consumed unless it is sourced from their neighborhood or grown at home in southern Appalachia. Her second husband, a professor of life sciences and a farmer, contributes essays about related topics, like sustainable agriculture. A teenage daughter and a vegetarian adds flavorful recipes, including one in the late summer chapter all about tomatoes and canning. Ten-year-old Lily raises chickens. Her adventures building a business selling the extra eggs contribute a note of humor.

**Naturalistic Planting Design: The Essential Guide**  
By Nigel Dunnett

Renowned gardener and founder of the "Sheffield School" method of planting, this book teaches the reader

*Continued on page 30.*

TICKETS FOR HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK 2021 AVAILABLE ONLINE BEGINNING MID-JANUARY AT VAGARDENWEEK.ORG

Continued from page 29.

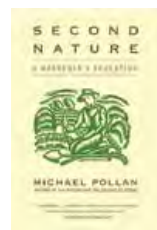


how to achieve, “low input -high impact” gardens using native plants that provide year-round interest and promote sustainability. One of the world’s current leading

voices on innovative landscape design, Dunnett applies ecological concepts while advocating for design that is more than just cosmetic or functional, but also good for the environment.

**Second Nature — A Gardener’s Education**

By Michael Pollan

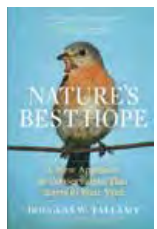


Better known for his books *Omnivore’s Dilemma* and *Food Inc.*, this modern take on Thoreau’s *Walden Pond* was written almost 30 years ago and was inspired by Pollan’s purchase of an old dairy farm in

Connecticut. He plants a garden and the adventures with woodchucks and weeds ensue. Told in a series of essays that make this appealingly readable, the stories are alternately funny and profound. Part autobiography, part meditation and part social history, this best-selling author covers topics as diverse as the perfect American lawn, pesticides, composting and planting a tree. Chosen by the American Horticulture Society as one of the 75 greatest books ever written about gardening, it’s a great read for cozy nights in front of a warm fire.

**Nature’s Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard**

By Doug W. Tallamy\*



Renowned conservationist, Tallamy has authored 95 research publications, multiple books and taught insect-related courses for 40 years. A literal grassroots call to action, this best seller will be popular with

anyone looking to make a difference in their own backyard. He provides a detailed plan and recommendations in this impassioned how-to: plant native plants, shrink our lawns, avoid using chemicals and synthetic fertilizers, remove invasive species and support wildlife. Ultimately his message is both urgent and encouraging — we all can be part of the solution to our growing environmental challenges. Don’t miss this important treatise. 🌱

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# OAK SPRING

## A LEGACY OF LOVE AND PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE

*"You are starting out on an adventure. If you are not too ambitious in the beginning and you succeed more than you fail — you will have found a great happiness in life."* — BUNNY MELLON, ON STARTING A GARDEN.

BY MAX SMITH, HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS FOR  
OAK SPRING GARDEN FOUNDATION

Rachel Lambert "Bunny" Mellon, who is legendary within Virginia's horticultural community, developed a love of plants and gardens very early in her long life. At the age of 10, she began collecting botanical books. By the age of 12 she was an active gardener, inspired in part by the Olmsted Brothers, sons of Frederick Law Olmsted, who managed the grounds of her father's estate in Princeton, New Jersey. These early encounters with gardening, and also with books on gardens and landscapes, awakened Bunny Mellon's relentless lifelong passion for plants, a passion that matured into a deep interest in the development of botanical knowledge and the principles of garden and landscape design in America and also in Europe. Through her studies she became a self-taught, but legendary, garden designer. Two of Mrs. Mellon's iconic garden designs still grace the grounds of the White House: the recently refurbished Rose Garden and the East Garden, which was later renamed in honor of Bunny Mellon's dear friend Jacqueline Kennedy.





Bunny's lifelong adventure in gardening took her far afield, but she was firmly rooted in the 4,000-acre Oak Spring estate in Upperville, Virginia, that she shared with her husband Paul Mellon and where she planted her Oak Spring Garden.

The library, built close to her home in 1981 as a gift from Paul Mellon, was expanded in 1997 to contain her growing collection of books, manuscripts, and art on plants, gardens and landscapes. Mrs. Mellon's wish was that this collection should continue to be a resource for scholars after her death and, in 1993, she established the Oak Spring Garden Foundation with the purpose of maintaining and sharing those collections.

When Mrs. Mellon, who the *New York Times* called "the last empress," passed away in March of 2014, it was the end of an era. The vast Oak Spring estate was divided into several parcels that were sold. Many of the treasures that were once part of Mrs. Mellon's home were also dispersed; granted to family members, donated to museums, or sold at major sale at Sotheby's in the fall of 2014. The resulting funds were used to meet her financial obligations and also to support the Gerard B. Lambert Foundation and the Oak Spring Garden Foundation. Support for the Oak Spring Garden Foundation ensured that Mrs. Mellon's treasured library would not be moved elsewhere, could remain at Oak Spring and could be used by visiting artists and scholars.

We are all fortunate that it was possible to retain these collections in this meaningful location, and that the library could be placed at the center of the varied programs of the Oak Spring Garden Foundation. When the foundation began operations in their current form in 2016, much of the immediate work focused on restoring the property and preparing the 700 acres for use in the foundation's programs. This work included addressing deferred maintenance, adaptive reuse of renovated farm buildings for conferences and guest accommodation, and new land management practices with an eye towards long-term sustainability and the conservation of native plants and animals.

Today, the mission of the Oak Spring Garden Foundation is to perpetuate and share the gifts of Rachel Lambert Mellon, including her residence,

garden, estate, and the Oak Spring Garden Library, to serve the public interest — to inspire and facilitate scholarship and public dialogue. At the foundation's core are plants, gardens and landscapes, and their importance for human wellbeing. Oak Spring weaves the garden, library and landscape together with programming that upholds scholarship, artistic creativity, science and action for environmental sustainability.

A major program is to perpetuate Mrs. Mellon's patronage of the arts and humanities through a series of fellowships and residencies. In 2018, with generous support from the Gerard B. Lambert Foundation, OSGF debuted two major fellowships named for Mrs. Mellon's children — the Eliza Moore Fellowship for Artistic Excellence and the Stacy Lloyd III Fellowship for Bibliographic Study. Each year since then, these fellowships have supported emerging leaders in the arts and humanities whose work has

*"The creation of a garden is the work and thoughts of many minds — like a piece of cloth it is woven of numerous threads."* — BUNNY MELLON

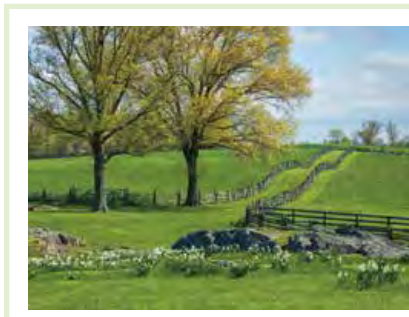
benefited from access to the collections of the Oak Spring Garden Library. Additional awards are also available for scholars and practitioners in plant organismal biology, botanical art and plant conservation biology. Interdisciplinary residency programs also allow a diverse array of artists and researchers to spend extended time at Oak Spring to infuse their work with inspiration gleaned from its unique garden, library and landscape.

The Oak Spring Garden Foundation has also ventured into sustainable agriculture. The Biocultural Conservation Farm (BCCF) established on the property in 2019 cultivates vegetables and fruits, with a special focus on heirloom varieties, conserving them as living plants and/or as seed, in order to illustrate, save and share the biological diversity of the edible plants that underpin our food system.

These programs, like all of us, were forced to confront the challenge of the Coronavirus

Pandemic in 2020. With on-site programming largely shut down, OSGF created a "Farmers for Food Relief" program to purchase produce from local small scale farmers for direct delivery to food banks. Production was also scaled up on the BCCF to provide an additional 15,000 lbs. of produce to those needing food. Oak Spring has also supported artists and researchers with socially distanced residencies as well as with a "COVID-19 Artist Response Program," where artists supplied works for a curated online exhibition, "Shelter in Art: How Artists are Using the Pandemic to Re-Examine Their Relationship to the Natural World."

A major disappointment of the COVID pandemic was the cancellation of the 2020 Historic Garden Week in Virginia, in which Oak Spring was to participate as a tour location. We hope that as we emerge from the COVID crisis in 2021 there will be time for reflection and healing. Our sincere wish is that through the beauty of plants and gardens Mrs. Mellon's legacy can help salvage some of the disruptions of a very difficult year. Oak Spring plans to participate in the 2021 Historic Garden Week. We hope we will be able to welcome hundreds of visitors to the Oak Spring estate to enjoy the commanding vistas, rolling Piedmont landscape and a unique garden that is filled not just with memory, but with promise for the future. 🌱



Photos on previous spread and this spread unless otherwise noted are courtesy of Missy Janes



Photo courtesy of Roger Foley



*"Once you fall under the spell of gardening — of growing things — of putting together colours, textures, forms, heights, materials, you will carry forever a cure."*

— BUNNY MELLON



# TRAVEL STORY



If staying put seems more appealing, use Richmond as your home base for a week of touring with minimal travel.

## ASHLAND

Saturday offers two options. Head 26 miles north from Richmond to Old Ridge Road, an original rolling road dating from the early 1700s, providing access to the Piedmont region of Hanover County near the picturesque town of Ashland. The area remains rural, featuring farms, fields, forests and rocky streams in the forks of the Pamunkey River. Whether you're drawn to hand-hewn cabins or formal symmetrical gardens, visitors will discover architectural and floral treasures in the heart of Hanover.

## JAMES RIVER PLANTATIONS

If a southern course beckons, drive about a half hour to the James River Plantations, open together for Historic Garden Week on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Three renowned sites and a church established in the early 1600s are located between scenic Rt. 5 and the James River in Charles City, a county with an expansive history over its 400 years, including the indigenous, the indentured, the enslaved, early European settlers and generations of their descendants. Built in the 1700s by a combination of indentured and enslaved labor, Berkeley, Shirley and Westover Plantations are

Virginia and National Historic Landmarks, working farms, private homes and living links to our country's past.

## PETERSBURG AND FREDERICKSBURG

Tuesday offers three choices for touring. Head north on Interstate 95 to Fredericksburg or south, a similar distance, towards Petersburg. Just steps from Fredericksburg's bustling historic business district are neighborhoods that reveal layers of the city's past. The historic private homes and gardens on this walking tour showcase the evolution that occurs through restoration, renovation and adaptation to modern needs. Each property is distinct in its architecture and design, and includes charming gardens welcoming guests. Enjoy plein air artists, floral and plant care demonstrations as well as horticultural exhibits while strolling through the neighborhoods. After touring, the locally-owned shops, galleries and restaurants of downtown Fredericksburg are just steps away, making for a full day.

Visitors who travel through the countryside of Prince George County east of Petersburg will delight in properties with river views. This driving tour includes a private woodland garden filled with numerous native plantings, wildflowers, shade-loving moss and an impressive assortment of fern. Tour headquarters is Merchants Hope Church, built in 1740.



### Saturday, April 17

Ashland or James River Plantations  
(Westover, Shirley and Berkeley)

### Sunday, April 18 & Monday April 19

James River Plantations

### Tuesday, April 20

Petersburg, Fredericksburg or  
Richmond: Private gardens in  
Hampton Gardens

### Wednesday, April 21

Richmond: Church Hill or  
Northern Neck

### Thursday, April 22

Richmond: Monument Avenue

### Friday, April 23

Richmond: The Executive Mansion,  
Maymont, or Lewis Ginter  
Botanical Garden

*Hosted by:* The Ashland Garden Club, The Boxwood Garden Club, Historic Richmond, The James River Garden Club, The Garden Club of the Northern Neck, The Petersburg Garden Club, The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club, Three Chopt Garden Club, Three Rivers Garden Club and The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton

*Photos courtesy Jane and Don Cowles*



Photos courtesy of Jane and Don Cowles

**HAMPTON GARDENS**

Alternatively, stay in Richmond for three back-to-back walking tours, the first in the Hampton Gardens neighborhood in the Near West End. Unique in the state, Richmond's tours showcase three different areas. Like many residential developments along Cary Street Road in the early 20th century, this neighborhood began as a streetcar suburb. Sited between Patterson Avenue and Cary Street Road in Richmond's highly desirable Westhampton area, charming Hampton Gardens provides magnificent examples of traditional architecture, including Tudor, Georgian, Federal Revival, and mid-century transitional styles surrounded by lush, mature landscaping. This easy walking tour showcases private gardens and stunning outdoor living spaces on Roslyn and Cary Street Roads, as well as Greenway and Oak Lanes. Additionally, tour ticket holders are invited to visit and picnic on the grounds of Wilton House, a Garden Club of Virginia (GCV) restoration site, and also at Tuckahoe Plantation, the boyhood home of Thomas Jefferson and a National Historic Landmark, with extensive vegetable and pleasure gardens at the height of spring beauty.

**NORTHERN NECK**

Wednesday presents two options: drive to Lancaster County, the "lower neck" or southernmost region of the Northern Neck, a land of rivers, creeks and coves that feeds into the Chesapeake Bay or, explore Richmond's Church Hill neighborhood. The Northern Neck driving tour leads

visitors through the back roads of upper Lancaster County and features a property located at the confluence of the eastern and western branches of the Corrotoman River, as well as sites located in Belle Isle State Park, a recipient of a GCV Centennial grant, and includes the Belle Isle Mansion. Additional sites on the tour ticket have ties to the family of Mary Ball Washington, the mother of George Washington.

**CHURCH HILL**

Church Hill, also known as St. John's Church Historic District, is Richmond's oldest neighborhood. Centered around St. John's Church (1741) where Patrick Henry gave his famous "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech, this district boasts the most antebellum structures in Richmond, and served as the pilot restoration project for Historic Richmond in 1956. Co-mingling with granite pavers, brick sidewalks, gaslights and mature tree canopies, the residences range from early 19th-century Federal style to mid-century Greek Revival and late 19th-century styles; making Church Hill one of the best preserved 19th-century cityscapes in the United States. Public open spaces along the river bluffs provide expansive views of the James River and downtown, creating a unique park-like setting for this historic neighborhood. Hosted by the Council of Historic Richmond and the four Richmond Garden Club of Virginia chapters, this walking tour of private homes with small, courtyard gardens offers a glimpse into the beauty and rich history of Church Hill.

**MONUMENT AVENUE**

Thursday's tour in Richmond features private properties along Monument

Avenue with lovely courtyard gardens. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1997, this broad avenue with a grassy, tree-lined median and a double allée of trees is making headlines. Between 1900 and 1925, development along this expansive corridor flourished as architecturally significant mansions, townhomes and churches were erected by wealthy citizens and speculative builders. Behind grand façades, walled gardens provided fresh air, respite and social recreation for homeowners. Today, they still delight with seasonal blooms, specimen trees, fountains, and follies. Its beauty and proximity to downtown and cultural venues make it popular with locals and tourists alike. Named for the confederate statues that formerly punctuated its skyline, Monument Avenue's memorials are in the process of removal as the community strives to reconcile its painful past. Tour goers will have the opportunity to visit private garden gems, explore the neighborhood's unique pocket parks and flowering alleyways, and experience the epicenter of profound social change in Virginia.

The Executive Mansion will be open especially for Historic Garden Week on Friday, a day to enjoy many of the public gardens and cultural sites in this capital city at your own pace. Home of Virginia's first families since 1813, the mansion is the oldest-occupied governor's residence in the United States.

The East Garden, designed and installed in the mid 1950s by noted landscape architect Charles F. Gillette, was restored in 1999-2000 by the GCV using proceeds from Historic Garden Week.

**MAYMONT & LEWIS GINTER**

The Garden Club of Virginia restored the ornamental lawn surrounding Maymont from 1996-98. It now features a shrub labyrinth, restored walkway, specimen trees and rose arbors. The Italian Garden contains parterres and a romantic pergola; the Japanese Garden includes a dramatic 45-foot waterfall. In 2006, the GCV replaced an allée of elms that had lined the driveway, all with tour proceeds. It would be impossible to visit all seven Garden Club of Virginia restoration sites located in Richmond in a single day, but Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden is a must see. Enjoy more than 50 acres of gardens, including an extensive perennial garden, an

Asian garden, a wetland garden and the Grace Arents Garden, a Victorian landscape restored by the GCV with funding from

Historic Garden Week tours. A glass conservatory added in 2003 is the only one of its kind in the mid-Atlantic.

*The Garden Club of Virginia is truly grateful for the steadfast commitment from our partners through their support of Historic Garden Week 2020, despite its cancellation. Special thanks to local 2020 Honor Roll sponsors and to Guidebook advertisers, listed here alphabetically and by the Central region.*

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## MAHONIAS: A WINTER WONDER

BY SUE PERRIN,  
 THE GARDEN CLUB OF GLOUCESTER

When fall camellias fade and winter's drear sets in, mahonia can seem like a trip to the tropics. This evergreen shrub, also called Oregon grape holly, begins its golden show in early January and continues through February. Heavy snow is no deterrent for this plucky (and prickly) plant with shiny gray-green foliage. Its blossoms are small, but heady. Mahonia's fragrance will stop you in your tracks.

As the days lengthen, flowers mature to abundant sprays of pendulant smokey blue berries, an important food source for birds in the winter months. A flock can denude a bush in a day when the fruit is perfectly ripe. Fortunately, the berries of this useful landscaping specimen seldom attract hungry deer.

Plant this easy-to-grow bush where its thorny foliage isn't too close to a walkway. They are tough in most parts of Virginia and tolerate a wide variety of soils, as well as coastal conditions. Improved hybrids like 'Winter Sun,' 'Underway' and 'Charity' bloom a rich yellow. This showy harbinger of spring can add much needed color and interest to a dormant garden for up to three months.

Individual racemes, or flower clusters, are as beautiful as they are unusual in small arrangements. Resembling droopy bunches of grapes, large cuttings minus foliage can be stunning in a tall vase.

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at Kenmore, George Washington's sister's house, in Fredericksburg, they felt up to the task. The idea of hosting a house & garden tour was born – the first Historic Garden Week took place in 1929.



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Photo courtesy of Theresa Rasmussen

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# FINDING COOL IN RICHMOND

THE BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM

BY MICHEL ARNAUD WITH JANE CREECH

For New Yorkers, Richmond is a place they drive through on the way to somewhere else. I was one of those people driving along Interstate 95 when I set out to write and photograph a book about how cities are changing through adaptive reuse and new design.

Spending time with friends helps you know them better. To me, travel is the same. The more you spend time in a city, the more you know it. My relationship with Richmond has evolved since I first stopped at the Union Market for lunch in 2016. We were looking for a place to sit outside with our cocker spaniel. The combination grocery and café with a patio was perfect. A year later, with a book contract in hand, I began to research and organize. Richmond made the final list of 14 cities that I planned to feature.



QUIRK HOTEL

As with my past projects, a book on Brooklyn and one on Detroit, and this new book, titled *Cool Is Everywhere: New and Adaptive Design Across America*, Jane and I reached out to friends who lived or worked in each of the cities. In Richmond, five friends — all architects — guided us in our journey of discovery.

First, we called friends Chris McVoy and Beth O'Neill, who both had projects in Richmond. Chris, the partner in charge at Steven Holl Architects, was responsible for the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) at the Markel Center that opened in 2018 on Virginia Commonwealth University's urban campus. He works with Beth, too, and she was working through their firm, O'Neill McVoy, on The Kitchens at Reynolds in North Church Hill. The low-rise, multi-faceted building has walls of textured red concrete and complements the brick of nearby structures. It is home to the J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Culinary program, affordable housing, three gardens and a greenhouse.

Beth and Chris suggested a visit not only to the ICA and its urban courtyard garden, complete with a reflecting pool surrounded by plantings of grasses and trees, but also recommended going to newer neighborhoods such as Scott's Addition, once an industrial district, too. We found the Blue Bee Cidery, originally a 1940s municipal stable, which is named after the Blue Orchard bee, a native pollinator.

In preparation for our first photography shoot, Jane wrote to her former classmate at Rhode Island School of Design, Isaac Regelson, an architect and location scout, who grew up in Richmond. Early on a July morning, Isaac gave the three of us (our five-year-old son joined



Michel Arnaud is an internationally recognized photographer whose work has been featured in *Architectural Digest* and *Vogue*. He included Quirk Hotel, the ICA, the Dykshorn residence, Blue Bee Cidery and the Black History Museum in the Richmond section of his most recent book, published in 2020. Photos by Michel Arnaud



QUIRK HOTEL



ICA

Richmond has retained the sophistication and defining qualities of its urban environment through diversity, a place for higher education, and a vibrant foodie and arts scene. For some, Richmond is associated with its past. However, more recently, the city is known for demonstrations for racial equality. What became clear in our time in Richmond was that bold architecture is emerging there, that examples of innovative adaptive reuse is on the rise, that nature is considered integral to these designs and in city life, and that a new history is being written. That is pretty cool.

in) a tour of the city's landmarks. His knowledge of the city's history led us from the c. 1740 Old Stone House (now part of the Poe Museum), to the Canal Walk Park, and to the James River Park Pipeline Walkway.

The next day Isaac drove me up to Libby Hill Park in Church Hill for the best skyline views. It was here that early city founders took inspiration for the city's name from Richmond, England. We went to Philip Johnson's WRVA Building, a radio station that opened in 1968. Sited in the historic Church Hill neighborhood, the complex includes a concrete tower with a spiral staircase.

Then, we toured the grounds of the American Civil War Museum at Historic Tredegar Ironworks. We explored the plaza that connects the remaining brick buildings and the glass entrance of the new building. Flowering trees and neatly trimmed shrubs contrast the rectangular concrete planters containing tall grasses. We walked along the 1865 Exhibit which is displayed on a bridge that links to Brown's Island in the James River.

A few days later, Jane and I met with Forest Frazier who moved from Brooklyn in 2018. He opened his practice, Architecture AF, in Jackson's Ward. His first project was one side of a duplex building. The revitalization of the building included an office on the first level and a residential unit above. The black exterior draws attention and the building is an example of fresh infill urban design in the neighborhood.

Forest mentioned that we should see Todd and Neely Dykshorn's house in Church Hill. Todd is an architect and works on adaptive reuse and hospitality projects. He restored and preserved the original white clapboard house that predates Civil War times, and replaced an older addition with a new structure made in glass and steel. His addition added a kitchen and family room on the first floor and a main bedroom on the second floor. Standing in the front dining room, you can see through the kitchen to the garden with its 19th-century retaining wall forming the north edge.

This spring they planted Montmorency and Black Tartarian cherry trees. An evergreen hedge planted along the side of the house provides privacy downstairs. When they moved in, their front garden was a sidewalk, so they decided to ask the city to reopen a long bricked-in tree well. The simple change offset a very urban condition. Now a plum tree flourishes there and adds a grace note to a very old house with a new life.

JAMES RIVER



BLUE BEE CIDERY



1865 EXHIBIT





# AN OLD HOUSE BECOMES STRIKINGLY NEW

By Madeline Mayhood

“Cool” design doesn’t often translate to 19th-century architecture, much less to a tenement duplex in Church Hill, an uber urban neighborhood in downtown Richmond. And from the street it faces, the meticulously renovated structure looks rather quiet and noble, with a respectful nod to historical accuracy in its new, 21st-century chapter. But make a turn onto the side street—the house sits on a corner lot—and the mammoth steel and glass structure reveals a seriously cool addition. The designers and owners, Todd and Neely Dykshorn, incorporated it into their plans when they began the renovation of the purchased property five years ago. “The house was quirky and old—both positives for us—in a neighborhood we love,” Todd says. The end result—at the intersection of old and new—proves that cool truly can be everywhere.



**Madeline Mayhood:** 19th century tenement architecture and 21st century design aren’t necessarily created equal and integrating the old and new is sometimes challenging. How did you reconcile such disparate, different architectural periods in your plans? What are the sorts of design details that make it work?

**Todd Dykshorn:** The design began about the outdoor spaces as much as the indoor. The site is bordered on the north by a 10-foot-tall mid-19th century (we think) granite retaining wall out of which flow two active springs. That drove the plan. We wanted to capture those elements in daily life both in and out. The exterior character was an interesting path. The house is in a City Old and Historic District, and therefore any work has to be approved by a commission of architectural review. We actually started with a version that proposed a wood clad addition, mirroring the older section of the house, and submitted that as an application. Neither of us were over the moon about it though, and one day we talked about what we really wanted to do, which was a glass pavilion in the yard. I asked the then head of the commission, who lives in the neighborhood, to get a reaction, and she surprised us by telling us to go for it. We’ve both liked and wanted to preserve the earliest part of the house—the sturdy, clapboard gable section—so attaching a contemporary, obviously differentiated, new piece seemed natural, particularly because based on the landscape plan. It peaks around the older section, rather than being entirely behind it.



**MM:** What’s your favorite part of your house/property and why?

**TD:** It’s hard to pin a favorite, but probably the happiest, unexpected result is the character and use of the old house’s rooms on both levels. They’re like dollhouse rooms which were never that comfortable or easy to spend time in, and now they are. We were a little nervous about the glass bedroom upstairs and had a backup plan for a sleeping nook in the more opaque middle section upstairs. We love that room with its variety of light and shadow through open or closed curtains. I have to mention the downstairs fireplace room though, which is the most comfortable nook of a room ever. We kept its small size, low ceiling and rear window that now looks into the addition’s glass room.

**MM:** Tell me about the outside. What goal did you have in mind for the landscape? Did its history factor into your plan(s)?

**TD:** Absolutely. The elements of the yard were the reason for the project and were the generators for most early concepts, motivated by the chance to organize their features and spaces. Despite being compact, the site around the house offers an amazing variety of attitudes and qualities. We had already planted a hedgerow that we hoped would eventually displace a wood fence along the alley on the most exposed side of the property. About the time we were finishing construction, the hedge was established enough that the fence could come down. Now, there is just a gate door buried in the hedge that takes you from the busy road the house sits on, to a happily quiet and focused place with the spring providing a backdrop of running water.

**MM:** Who are your design heroes?

**TD:** Hmmm...that’s a great question. Being married to Neely, who is a decorative arts grad, I’m constantly amazed that I made it through eight years of design education and never heard of the designers she studied. Those in fashion, furniture, fabrics, graphics and more, who I now realize were often in collaboration with the architects we were studying. Growing up in the Midwest with early exposure to FLW [Frank Lloyd Wright] and now being in an environment that created Williamsburg, Poplar Forest and UVA’s lawn, I have to admit it’s difficult to come down on a side of what makes a great building, space or landscape. I try to look at it all.



Todd Dykshorn graduated from Iowa State University and received his master’s in architecture from Harvard. His home will be featured on the Historic Garden Week Church Hill tour taking place in Richmond on April 21, 2021.

Photos courtesy of Mick Anders and Michel Arnaud



## WHY ARE MY AZALEAS BLOOMING NOW?

BY PEGGY SINGLEMANN,

Director of Park Operations and Horticulture at Maymont and Host, Virginia Home Grown VPM PBS

Fall always provides a few surprises in the garden and this year is no exception. The unique year of 2020 is still proving to be an exceptional one. Some spring blooming shrubs and trees are blooming out of sequence by showcasing a few blossoms now. No need to panic, this is not as unusual as it seems. Occasionally, this happens.

Spring flowering plants set their flower buds during the summer months. The period of hot, dry weather this past summer tricked some plants into an early dormancy. Periods of fall weather can mimic spring. Since only a few flowers are blooming, spring's glorious display will not be greatly impacted.

There is a lesson to learn from these untimely blossoms. First, they remind gardeners that spring flowering plants set their flower buds for the following spring on the present year's growth. Late summer through spring is not the time to prune these trees and shrubs since doing so will remove many of the flower buds, reducing the show come spring. While an errant branch may be removed in the fall or winter, prune spring flowering plants after they bloom.

Conversely, summer and fall flowering trees and shrubs form their flower buds on the new growth of the spring season. *Hydrangea macrophylla* (blue or pink mophead hydrangeas) for example, bloom on the previous year's growth or old wood. A harsh winter can freeze the expectant flower buds just as quickly as a sharp pair of clippers wielded in the spring. Pruned in the late winter/very early spring before the new growth breaks the bud stage. Regardless of when a plant blooms, always remove deadwood or any branches that are crossing and rubbing one another.

I welcome gardening and pruning questions through Virginia Home Grown's Facebook page, or send them in during the show, which airs live from March to October on VPM PBS.



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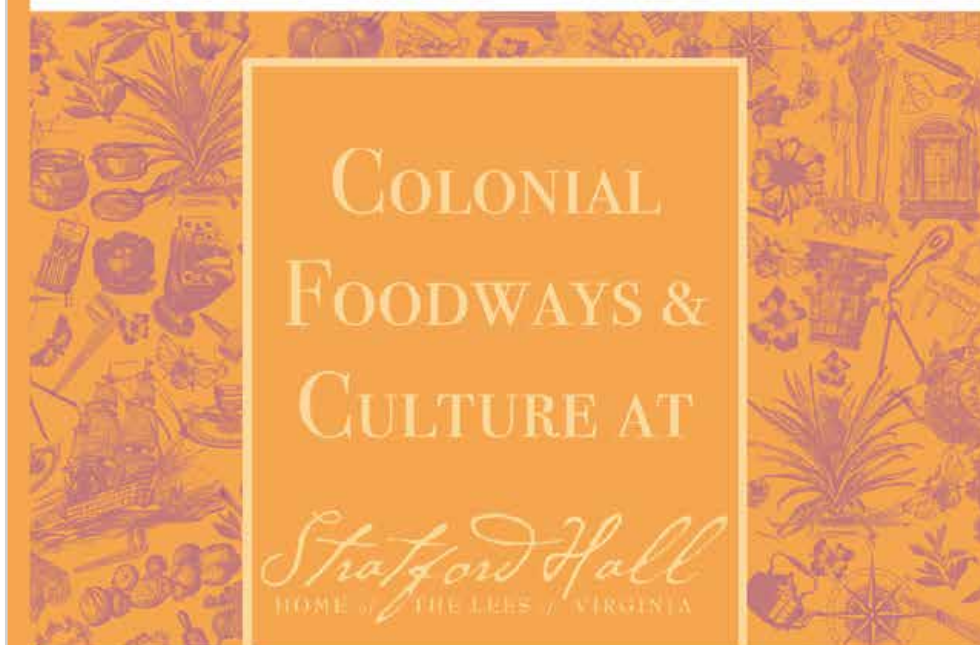
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## CREATE A GARDEN WITH FOUR SEASON INTEREST

Plants to Entice People and Wildlife Throughout the Year

BY MEG TURNER

When planting a garden, be sure to incorporate a variety of plants to ensure interest, as well as food, shelter and pollination sources for wildlife, throughout the year.

Some of my favorites, many that are native to Virginia, include:

- American Cranberrybush Viburnum (*Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum*)
- Autumn Fern (*Dryopteris erythrosora* 'Brilliance')
- Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
- Lenten Rose (*Helleborus orientalis*)
- Oakleaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*)
- Purity Pieris (*Pieris japonica* 'Purity')
- Purple Passionflower Vine (*Passiflora incarnata*)
- Sasanqua Camellia (*Camellia sasanqua*)
- Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)
- Virginia Bluebell (*Mertensia virginica*)
- White Oak (*Quercus alba*)
- Winter Daphne (*Daphne odora* 'Aureomarginata')

Meg Turner, the owner of M. Turner Landscapes (MTL) and the Chair of Capital Trees, will open her garden in Richmond as part of Historic Garden Week on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. Capital Trees is a nonprofit organization created by Garden Club of Virginia members in 2010. What began as a community project is now a full-fledged operation dedicated to creating and enhancing green spaces.



Photo courtesy of Gordon Gregory

# TRAVEL STORY



Birthplace of presidents and Pocahontas, with spectacular waterfront views, the East Region is where history and hospitality converge.

## SUFFOLK

The first day of Historic Garden Week provides three touring choices. The easily-accessible walking tour at Governor's Pointe in Suffolk spotlights private homes with expansive gardens in a lovely neighborhood located on the banks of the Nansemond River, named by the colonists for the local Native American tribe. Once lush farmland on high cliffs, the area captures the active river life beyond and was developed to maintain the natural beauty and integrity of the site.

## GLOUCESTER

Also on Saturday is a tour in Gloucester and Mathews County. Rich in farmland and important to the Virginia fishing industry, this bucolic area is often called the "Daffodil Capital of the World." Showcased properties include one of the earliest domestic structures in the United States, continually inhabited since 1652. This outstanding example of an early Tidewater planter's home

features over 100 acres and a nearly mile-long riverfront with enormous willow oaks commanding the longest southern exposure of any home on the North River. Another featured property sits well back from Main Street in Mathews, behind a sweeping lawn dappled by the shade of mature trees.

## JAMES RIVER PLANTATIONS

Spend Saturday, Sunday or Monday touring three iconic James River Plantations. Berkeley Plantation was the site of the first official Thanksgiving in 1619. The Georgian mansion has five terraced gardens that were dug by hand before the Revolutionary War. Shirley is home to 12 generations of the same family. The mansion was begun in 1723 and is still lived in by direct descendants, the Hill Carter family. William Byrd II, author, diarist, colonial leader and founder of the cities of Petersburg and Richmond, lived at Westover Plantation, one of the finest examples of Georgian architecture in America. The lawn includes century-old tulip poplars and offers a commanding view of the James River.



**Saturday, April 17**  
Suffolk, Gloucester or  
James River Plantations

**Sunday, April 18 &  
Monday April 19**  
James River Plantations

**Tuesday, April 20**  
Williamsburg

**Wednesday, April 21**  
Hampton – Newport News or  
Virginia Beach

**Thursday, April 22**  
Norfolk

**Friday, April 23**  
Middle Peninsula

**Saturday, April 24**  
Eastern Shore



*Hosted by:* The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore, The Elizabeth River Garden Club, The Garden Club of Gloucester, The Franklin Garden Club, The Hampton Roads Garden Club, Harborfront Garden Club, The Huntington Garden Club, The Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula, The Nansemond River Garden Club, The Garden Club of Norfolk, The Princess Anne Garden Club, The Virginia Beach Garden Club and The Williamsburg Garden Club

*Photo above courtesy of Sandy Geiger. Photo to the right courtesy of Diane Ginsberg*



Photo courtesy of Gordon Campbell

**WILLIAMSBURG**

On Tuesday, continue south down scenic Rt. 5 to Williamsburg for a flower-filled look at six gardens. Visitors will delight in the variety of landscapes — garden rooms, historic gardens, secret gardens and even a farm garden will be open. Make sure to allow time for the escorted walking tour of gardens in the Colonial area, as well as shopping at nearby Merchant’s Square. We all appreciate green space more than ever these days. Continue the inspiration with access to additional properties rarely open to the public decorated with flower arrangements for indoor and outdoor entertaining. Learn about the archaeology used to understand the hidden ornamental gardens of the colorful John Custis IV, a British politician who served on the Governor’s Council in the 1700s. Tour goers can see the newly installed Reveley Garden at William & Mary too. Its terraces, pathways and plantings embody the GCV’s continuing commitment to the

restoration and preservation of historic landscapes in Virginia.

**YORKTOWN**

On Wednesday, it is only a half hour drive to the Yorktown tour. River views and village gardens, with colonial and revolutionary history woven throughout the experience will make this tour of private homes, landscapes and landmark structures special. Tour goers will enjoy access to properties located in the charming village, one of the original squires formed in Colonial Virginia in 1682, as well as one perched high on the York River bluff, offering a stunning vista. Horticulture enthusiasts will linger in gardens surrounding a recently remodeled 1920s bungalow. And history buffs won’t be able to resist the site where the terms of surrender by General Cornwallis to General Washington were negotiated, or the c. 1720 Old Customs House and Colonial herb garden.

**VIRGINIA BEACH**

If the ocean beckons, head southeast to Virginia Beach’s Birdneck Point neigh-

borhood, a peninsula in Linkhorn Bay providing picturesque waterfront views. A mecca for the impressive variety of birds and waterfowl that live there, the area showcases newly constructed or renovated properties, each with equally splendid gardens. A bonus stop is a stunning, waterfront garden lovingly planted and maintained by the master-gardener owners. Enjoy lunch on the waterfront at tour headquarters, the Cavalier Golf and Yacht Club. It was originally created in 1927 to serve the recreational needs of guests of the iconic, and recently restored, Cavalier Hotel.

**NORFOLK**

Just 18 miles away, the Norfolk tour taking place the next day highlights the Talbot Park neighborhood. Located on the banks of the Lafayette River, a new section of houses has been added on grounds that were originally part of a Federal era plantation. Home to the Talbot family for 150 years, the land was gifted to the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia, then sold in 2015. This walking tour showcases both modern and traditional architecture. Visitors will enjoy the development’s quiet streets lined with live oaks, and glimpses of the river. Tour ticket includes admission to the Norfolk Botanical Garden and the nearby Zoological Park, making for a full day.

**MIDDLE PENINSULA**

Travel north two hours on Friday to the Middle Peninsula, an area rich in planting, crabbing, fishing and oystering. The history of Middlesex County dates to the early 1600s when the first English land grant was given to John Montrum. Filled with small, quaint towns and abundant wildlife, Middlesex is home to more than 10,000 residents. Many more enjoy it as a vacation getaway. This driving excursion includes properties built as early as 1781 and as recently as the 1990s near the Piankatank and Rappahannock Rivers. Nearby points of interest are in the charming waterside towns of Saluda, Deltaville and Urbanna.

**EASTERN SHORE**

Come by bridge or boat to explore the gardens and history on Virginia’s Eastern Shore on the final day of Historic Garden Week 2021. Settled just a few years after Capt. John Smith landed at Jamestown, this narrow peninsula is situated between the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Perennial tour centerpiece, National Historic Landmark and recipient of a Garden Club of Virginia

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Photo Credit: Linda Tjossem



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## FRIENDLIER THAN FLORAL FOAM

BY TORY WILLIS, THE RAPPAHANNOCK VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Several years ago a fellow floral arranger commented to me that she had stopped using floral foam for her arrangements, explaining that the material was not biodegradable. I was surprised to learn the floral industry had not developed a material that could hold flowers in place without harming the environment. Oasis®, as it is commonly known, has been around since the 1950s, and is the most frequently used material for designers.

I recalled that when my husband's grandmother passed away, I had inherited her floral pin frogs. These old-fashioned, heavy items, in a variety of styles, held stems in place. Some had pins which looked like a tetanus shot waiting to happen, while others were made of glass with small holes in them for holding flowers. I attempted to use these frogs. I had better luck with the ones that had the rusty metal pins in them than the glass holes, but I had limited success. Oasis® provided me the stability and the ability to arrange easily.

*Continued on next page.*

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Over time, conservation-conscious garden club members continued to encourage others to reduce the use of floral foam. Several years ago I considered this problem again. As sometimes occurs, fate and flowers collided. When the Garden Club of Virginia invited the innovative, Leesburg Garden Club member and 28-year veteran floral designer, Holly Chapple to be a keynote speaker at its Fall Symposium, she demonstrated the use of her invention, a plastic "pillow" used to hold stems in place.

When a workshop offered the opportunity to try this alternative, I accepted the challenge. It worked well for a single arrangement, but is not cost effective if you are creating many arrangements for a large event.

**There are many alternatives to floral foam which are environmentally friendly, including:**

- Balled up chicken wire inserted into a container. The wire functions much the same as floral foam and allows multiple removals and changes which floral foam cannot always provide. A new crumple or more wire can be added for extra strength and support.
- Small glass pebbles are another environmentally-friendly option that permits a dash of color without the need to hide unsightly mechanics.
- Wire of different colors is available at most hardware stores and can be molded into different shapes.
- Bent sticks can be fastened together to provide the same functionality as wire, but with a natural look.
- A bright-colored section of hose can be used in a container, with holes cut into it to hold flowers.
- A grid design, created in tape, covering the opening of a container, also works well.

Of course, grandmother's flower frogs are still a good choice when arranging. 🌿



This spring, each tour will offer a limited amount of tickets, and some of our larger tours will offer timed tickets. Tickets will only be available online at VAGardenWeek.org. Please check our website in mid-January for tickets and for updated information regarding touring logistics and protocols.

# GET INVOLVED

OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE IN NATURE — AND TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE — AROUND IN VIRGINIA

BY MADELINE MAYHOOD, THE JAMES RIVER GARDEN CLUB

BC—Before Covid—seems like another lifetime. Today we manage stresses unimaginable a year ago. Even our vocabulary has changed. Who could have predicted that “masks” and “social distancing” and “virtual classrooms” would become so familiar? But in the midst of the challenges and uncertainty, what has emerged as a priority is the need to do what matters... to identify priorities and find ways to engage.

For those of us inclined to make nature a priority, there is no better time to take up the torch. Taking action might be as simple as planting a perennial, arranging a fresh bouquet of flowers or joining or creating a likeminded community with similar priorities. And making connections to nature makes a difference, especially now. A plethora of studies link well-being and overall health to exposure to nature; its profound benefits—from stress and anger reduction, decreased crime and improved overall health—are continually being revealed. Nature is most certainly an elixir to an otherwise unfortunate 2020.

With millions of annual visitors and thousands of acres and trail miles, state and local park volunteers help run the parks and manage their natural resources—from staffing contact stations and visitor centers, to developing and maintaining trails and conducting environmental education programs. In addition to volunteer opportunities, connecting with nature can also mean an overnight stay in rustic cabins, many built decades ago by the Civilian Conservation Corps, or a simple day-hike or picnic with a spectacular view.

Supporting your local botanical garden—whether volunteering, joining or simply enjoying—provides a direct pipeline to an entire community who cares about plants. And many offer educational opportunities in floral design, botanical illustration, composting, and garden design, to name a few. Volunteers play a major role at many public gardens and work with staff in most areas—from weeding, planting, pruning to guest services, like welcoming visitors and giving tours. Volunteers often get perks—comped memberships, for example, and class, gift shop, facility rental and food service discounts.

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The biggest advantage of being affiliated with a botanical garden though is the sheer access—to cutting edge horticulture and an entire community to whom nature matters.

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And they can be gateways to all sorts of plant resources. In times of Covid, many botanical gardens and arboreta are offering timed tickets as

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a safety precaution and to prevent crowds. Volunteer opportunities have been curtailed. Virtual experiences on websites have also ramped up,

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however, both Blandy Experimental Farm (the State Arboretum of Virginia in Boyce), and Norfolk Botanical Garden offer virtual garden tours and online resources, and the

American Horticultural Society in Alexandria provides links to their gardening podcasts.

Garden clubs offer opportunities to connect with like-minded folk, all of whom share a common interest—in horticulture, plants, conservation and environmental issues. National Garden Clubs include over 150,000 members in thousands of garden clubs nationwide. The Virginia chapter of the NGC, the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, is headquartered at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond. The Garden Club of Virginia (GCV) includes nearly 3,500 members in 48 clubs throughout the state.

The GCV produces Historic Garden Week, America's “largest open house” and one of the state's most significant economic drivers involving tourism. It is held in late April when springtime in Virginia is at its peak. While orchestrated from its state headquarters in Richmond, each tour is planned and hosted locally by GCV members and volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering during Historic Garden Week 2021, provide your contact information and where you live to [info@VAGardenWeek.org](mailto:info@VAGardenWeek.org) and your information will be forwarded to the appropriate tour team.

Supporting organizations whose missions matter is crucial in order for them to continue their important work. Beyond memberships, however, some may offer local opportunities to engage. The James River Association, for example, offers volunteer opportunities that help advocate for a clean river system. Spikenard Farm Bee Sanctuary in Floyd near Roanoke is committed to restoring the health and vitality of honeybees worldwide; an active volunteer corps helps on the bee farm. Capitol Trees offers ways for volunteers to engage in urban landscape revitalization and reclamation in downtown Richmond. In general, most volunteer opportunities are somewhat limited because of Covid, but many organizations are offering online webinars and recorded classes.

Plant societies are opportunities for plant geeks (and we say this with pride) to focus and learn more. The Virginia Native Plant Society offers educational opportunities, trips, meetings and programs. Eleven regional chapters comprise the VNPS and newcomers are welcome. Specific plant societies are worth exploring for membership and camaraderie; if you have a penchant for a particular plant, more than likely there is an associated society, be it a local chapter or national organization. Daylilies, daffodils, hollies and roses, for example, all have their own fan clubs. Some to explore include the Tidewater Daylily Society, the Virginia

*Continued on next page.*

Continued from previous page.

Daffodil Society, the Holly Society of America and the American Rose Society. Some plant societies are headquartered at botanical gardens; the American Boxwood Society, for example, is based at Blandy Farm, Virginia's state arboretum.

If you're really serious about learning, a master gardener program is worth considering. After (at least) 50 hours of horticulture classes, master gardener educators return 50 volunteer hours of community service through their local extension office. The program is an educational outreach of Virginia Cooperative Extension and brings the significant resources of Virginia's land-grant universities (Virginia Tech and VSU) to a state-wide audience.

There are a plethora of ways to join, get involved, tune in, connect, and engage. And while in times of Covid, there may not be as many, the hope is that AC—after Covid—those opportunities will be amplified. If nature is a priority and you love plants and the planet, consider the many ways you can be part of the conversation.



### BOTANICAL GARDENS

**Botanical gardens offer a treasure trove of ways for plant people to connect and thrive.**

And, they're often gateways to associated organizations that also make plants a priority. While many are proceeding with caution because of Covid, expect programs and opportunities to be restored to some degree of normalcy once the virus is in check. Virginia boasts a number of public gardens, including:

- \* Meadowlark Park, Vienna
- \* Norfolk Botanical Garden, Norfolk
- \* Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond
- \* Maymont, Richmond
- \* Blandy Farm, State Arboretum of Virginia, Boyce
- \* Old City Cemetery, Lynchburg
- \* River Farm, Alexandria
- \* Hahn Horticulture Garden at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg
- \* Edith Carrier Arboretum at James Madison University, Harrisonburg
- \* Boxerwood Gardens, Lexington
- \* Williamsburg Botanical Garden, Williamsburg

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## PRETTY ENOUGH TO EAT

### COOKING WITH EDIBLE FLOWERS

BY CHEF REBECCA LUCARELLI

Growing up with a garden inspired me to use flowers in my cooking. From a young age, I remember picking chamomile heads to dry on my windowsill to make my own personal cup of tea. Experimental herb and tea blends became a regular practice for me. Not a new practice, it is an artful way to add beauty and flavor to a dish. Add edible flowers to your repertoire and enter a new culinary world.

#### REBECCA'S RULES

- Don't cook with it unless you are positive it is safe to eat. Not all flowers are edible, some are poisonous.
- Eat only flowers that have been grown organically. Don't eat anything provided by a florist or garden center.
- If you have asthma or allergies, it's not worth the risk of making them worse. Don't eat flowers.
- Remove the pistils and the stamens, only eat the petals, or the leaves, depending on the plant.

#### THESE ARE POISONOUS

By no means comprehensive, these common 18 plants can cause a host of unpleasant side effects to humans and pets alike, including vomiting and skin irritations. Don't use them in the kitchen.

- Daffodil | Hydrangea | Baby's Breath  
Mountain Laurel | Oleander  
Alstroemeria | Tulip | Bleeding Heart  
Calla Lily | Foxglove | Bloodroot  
Iris | Delphinium | Lily of the Valley  
Marigold | Morning Glory  
Amaryllis | Yarrow

#### TOP 15 CULINARY FLOWERS AND HERBS

All easily grown in your own garden

*Calendula* has a slightly bitter taste. Its petals are a bright orangey-yellow, making it more often used for color than flavor.

*Pansy, or Viola,* are related to violets, which are also edible. They have a mild, grassy flavor and are beautiful "sugared" and used to decorate cakes and cookies.

Continued on next page.



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Continued from previous page.

*Mint*

is used medicinally but also as a flavoring in everything from ice cream to toothpaste.

*Rose*

Both the petals and the hips, the fruit of the pollinated flower, are edible. With an expected perfumy flavor, the hips are typically used to make jam.

*Nasturtiums*

have a peppery flavor. Both the flowers and the attractive round leaves of this summer annual are edible, making it an easy and colorful addition to a salad.

*Chives,*

and their allium family, have been used in cooking for thousands of years. This perennial herb with a small, lavender pom-pom at its tips has an oniony, but not overpowering, taste.

*The Daylily,*

not a true lily at all, earned its name because each bloom lasts only one day. Buds are sweet tasting and nutritious; the root is used medicinally.

*Sage,*

a Salvia and part of the mint family is an attractive, perennial herb that pairs well with chicken, mushrooms and other earthy-savory foods.

*Bee Balm,*

otherwise known as red bergamot, is also a member of the mint family and is one of the few native American herbs. It can grow up to three feet, making it a great addition to the back of a perennial border, where it will attract pollinators. Flower petals are an attractive garnish.

*Squash Blossoms.*

Most flowers grow up to four inches in length, making them perfect for stuffing. Their mild, vegetable-like flavor complements stronger foods like goat cheese.

*Chamomile*

is most often associated with tea. Long used by herbalists to calm the stomach and the nerves, it has small daisy-like flowers and can take over an area in your garden if it's properly placed in a sunny location.

*Dill*

is part of the carrot family. This classic accompaniment to fish and to potatoes is very flexible. You can cook with the leaves, the flower and the seeds.

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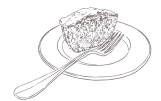
*Hibiscus* is part of the Mallow family. Its main culinary use is the gorgeous magenta red coloring from its petals and the cranberry flavor it imparts to tea.

*Honeysuckle.*

This roadside vine blooms in late spring and continues throughout the summer. The small drop of nectar at the base of the trumpet shaped flower gives it its sweetness. It's invasive, so you probably don't want to grow it. Take advantage of serendipity when it's discovered on walks in the wild.

*Lavender*

is best known for its perfume, but the English variety (*Lavandula angustifolia*) is delicious as a culinary flavoring. It's strong, and can taste a little too much like soap if overused.



*Lemon Verbena Pound Cake*

- \* 3 EGGS
- \* 3 TABLESPOONS MILK
- \* 1 ½ TEASPOONS VANILLA
- \* 1 CUP ALMOND FLOUR
- \* ½ CUP SIFTED ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR
- \* 1 TEASPOON BAKING POWDER
- \* ¼ TEASPOON SALT
- \* ¾ CUP SUGAR
- \* 13 TABLESPOONS BUTTER, SOFTENED
- \* 4 TABLESPOONS MINCED LEMON VERBENA (ROSE PETALS OR LAVENDER ARE GOOD SUBSTITUTES)
- \* 1 TABLESPOON ORANGE ZEST

Whisk together eggs, milk and vanilla and set aside. With a whisk attachment, whisk dry ingredients in a separate mixing bowl. Add butter and half of the egg mixture to the dry ingredients. Mix on medium speed for one minute to allow the batter to aerate. Gradually add the rest of the egg mixture. Turn off the mixer and fold in the chopped flowers and orange zest by hand.

Bake in a parchment-lined loaf pan at 350 degrees for about 50 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean. This is delicious on its own or served with freshly whipped cream.

Chef Rebecca Lucarelli is a graduate of the French Culinary Institute and works for the Food Network as its Purchasing and Events Coordinator. Born and raised in New York, she went to boarding school on a farm in Peterborough, New Hampshire, where a self-sustainable lifestyle was practiced and embraced. She says growing and raising her own food changed her view of it forever and was one of her motivations to make it her life's work.

Congratulations to the Garden Club of Virginia on their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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# FLOWER POWER

A BOTANICALLY INSPIRED ROUTINE FOR GLOWY SKIN

BY HALLE RIVERS MILLER

Plants need water and so do people. Skin looks healthy and youthful when hydrated because moisture plumps away fine lines and creates a lit-from-within look. A botanical and oil based night time regime will make you look like you drink a gallon of water a day. All recommended skincare products are natural, contain plant-derived ingredients and are easily available on the internet.

## Cleanse

### TATCHA CAMELLIA CLEANSING OIL

A 2-in-1 potion that cleans skin without drying it, the main ingredient in this product is Japanese Camellia oil. Lightweight, it leaves skin feeling soft, but not greasy. Rub gently all over your face and over eyelids with your hands to remove makeup and any dirt and grime accumulated over the course of your day. Then rinse off with warm water.

## Mask

### TATA HARPER RESURFACING MASK

All of Tata Harper's products are created entirely with fresh, organic ingredients and are made in Vermont. The resurfacing mask contains willow bark as well as geranium, calendula and bergamot. These ingredients gently exfoliate skin to bring out its inner glow. Layer on this mask after washing your face, and leave on for 20 minutes. Meanwhile, make a relaxing cup of tea and take care of your face and yourself.

## Mist and Tone

### CAUDALIE BEAUTY ELIXIR



After rinsing off the mask, rehydrate and tone with this easy-to-use spray. Made with peppermint, rose and rosemary, it smells amazing while it freshens and cools skin. Pro-tip: store in your fridge and mist yourself on a hot summer day, or spray it on your face after wearing



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## Serum

### PAI ROSEHIP OIL

Many people are afraid of using oils in their skincare routine. There is a misconception they will clog pores and cause acne. Rosehip oil is extremely regenerative, and is perfect for getting rid of dark spots and acne scars. Pat this serum on your face, don't rub.

## Moisturize

### WELEDA SKIN FOOD

This lotion is extremely thick and can be used all over your body, not just to nourish facial skin. It might seem greasy upon initial application, but will leave your skin feeling soft and healthy after it is fully absorbed. For those who already have oily skin, there is a lite version, or it can be thinned by mixing with the Rosehip oil. Containing both chamomile and calendula, it helps to soothe the skin at the end of a long day.

## Lips

### AESOP ROSEHIP SEED LIP CREAM

After these five steps, don't skip your lips. Give them some attention too. This product has a surprising texture. As its name states, it's more of a cream than a balm. It smells amazing because it's made of rosehip oil and ylang ylang; both hydrate and soften lips.

Halle is a recent graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City, the only university in the nation that offers a degree in Cosmetic Marketing. She is a self-described skincare junkie. One of her beauty goals is to have skin so healthy it doesn't require makeup. With this evening routine, she's achieved that. 🌿

# RAIN GARDENS

BY KAYE MOOMAW,  
HILLSIDE GARDEN CLUB

Since so much rain has fallen across the state this year, Virginians may be wondering how to decrease the areas in their landscapes that now look like streams. One way to channel runoff is by building a rain garden. These beautiful additions to the landscape can provide numerous benefits to your local environment.

When hard surface areas like pavement or sidewalks are replaced with mixed, naturalistic plantings, the speed at which water flows over the ground and into stormwater drains and natural lakes and streams is decreased.

Slowing the water allows it to infiltrate the soil and shed some of its toxins. Much of the stormwater is percolated into the soil through small passageways left from both microbial life and the root growth of various plants and trees. Hard surfaces retain heat and give off warmth.

## BENEFITS

### Cooler Yards

Rain gardens can help make your yard cooler in the summer.

### Less Maintenance

Moreover, rain gardens reduce the need for fertilizer, water and maintenance while increasing the habitat for wildlife.

### Fewer Mosquitos

Rain Gardens are designed to mimic the natural water cycle so that absorption, transpiration and evaporation in that area can be completed in 72 hours. This prevents mosquitoes from breeding.

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## GETTING STARTED WITH A RAIN GARDEN

**A rain garden should be sited 10 feet from the foundation of a building, and should not be located in a place where water is already pooling. It has six elements:**

- A grass buffer strip that serves to slow the flow of water as it enters
- Trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals that stabilize and use the water and tolerate "wet feet"
- Mulch to keep it the garden moist while the plants mature
- A soil layer collects water and nutrients to sustain the plantings
- A pond area or depression no more than six or eight inches deeper than the ground level around it for short-term water retention
- A small, six-inch berm will act as a dam to facilitate pooling and prevent water from running straight through the rain garden



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# trends

## KITCHEN DESIGN

By Marvin Daniel  
PHOTOS BY KIP DAWKINS

### ISLAND LOVE CONTINUES

Kitchen islands remain an integral part of the kitchen, a visual focal point and hub for food preparation, seating to enjoy meals, storage and a surface that accommodates cooktops, sinks and also under-counter appliances. For larger spaces, clients are opting for double islands and an easy way to separate meal preparation and family gatherings while expanding function and improving traffic flow of the kitchen space.

### POPS OF COLOR ADD INTEREST

While white (and/or gray) kitchen remain a timeless classic, designers are using unexpected pops of color to keep the space from being sterile. Colored cabinetry is being seen on islands, hutches, and even one full wall, but not typically used throughout the whole kitchen. Appliance makers are expanding finish options beyond stainless steel to include white and matte black with an array of standard and custom colors available for luxury performance ranges like La Cornue. Warm brass, bronze metals, and painted fixtures continue to be used in lighting and hardware to add warmth to cool palettes. Wood is back in a big way with natural finishes and/or in painted cabinetry to add interest.

### INTEGRATED APPLIANCES FOR A SEAMLESS LOOK

Designed to fit flush at counter depth and coordinate with custom kitchen cabinetry, integrated appliances have matching cabinetry panels that disappear into surrounding cabinetry offering a clean, seamless aesthetic and streamlined effect.

### STORAGE SOLUTIONS DESIGNED FROM THE INSIDE OUT

One of the foundations to a functional kitchen is storage. Today, there are more solutions for cabinet interiors than ever before. In order to keep things close at hand and out of sight, kitchen designs now include; countertop and in-cabinet hidden storage for small appliances, specialty drawer dividers for cutlery and utensils, pull-outs for spices, tray dividers, roll-out trays and caddies for pot and pan lids; as well as wastebasket cabinets for garbage and recyclables.



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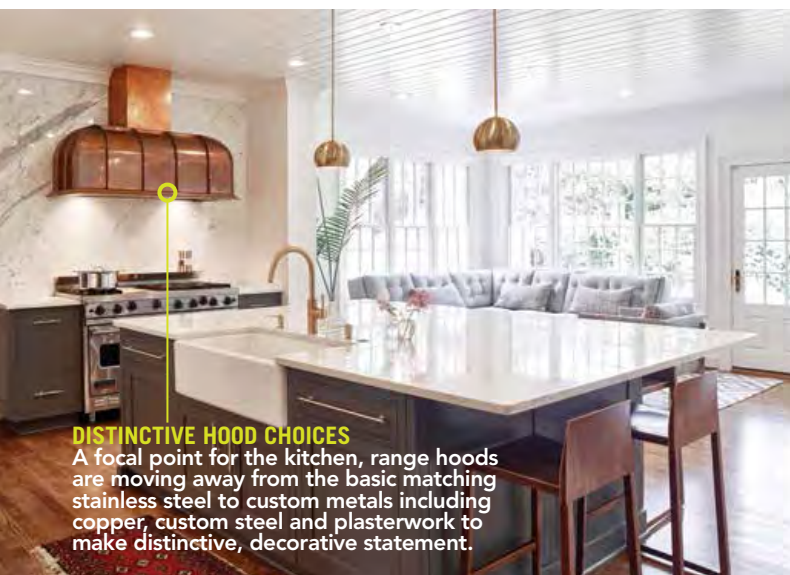
Designers are including quartz as a surface option in addition to traditional marble, granite and other natural stone countertops. The fabrication of Quartz® is a man-made process using a mixture of raw materials that is highly compressed and boasts a durable, fade resistant, non-porous stain resistant surface that is easy to maintain. Today's quartz offerings include a wide variety of colors, textures and realistic looking stone choices. Locally, we are seeing neutrals and varying shades of grey, white and taupe as popular choices to complement clean and modern décor.

### SMART TECHNOLOGY IN THE KITCHEN SIZZLES

Expect appliances to incorporate more technology with the ability to sync with a wireless Bluetooth device offering any number of remote settings from your phone. There are dedicated applications designed to perform and monitor cooking, cooling and cleaning the kitchen. Also, trending are finger touch and swipe controls that will ultimately replace knobs. Look for more mainstream adoption of vacuum sealers that are designed to keep food fresh longer by significantly slowing down the aging and degrading process and are a must for sous vide or LTLT cooking. (LTLT means low temperature/ long time and sous vide cooking is the process of sealing food in an airtight container—usually a vacuum sealed bag—and then cooking that food in temperature-controlled water.) Convection steam ovens are becoming a popular choice as they are fast, powerful, versatile and a healthy way to cook. On the horizon, flash freezers and blast chillers will be making their appearance in home kitchens.



Marvin Daniel is a principal at KDW Home, and not only loves design but also is an avid and accomplished cook. KDW Home offers kitchen, bath and custom cabinetry designs. Design studios in Richmond and Virginia Beach and at [kdwhome.com](http://kdwhome.com).



### DISTINCTIVE HOOD CHOICES

A focal point for the kitchen, range hoods are moving away from the basic matching stainless steel to custom metals including copper, custom steel and plasterwork to make distinctive, decorative statement.

### SHAKER STYLE IS VERSATILE

Shaker style cabinets continue as a favorite choice for kitchen design. The straight lines, squared edges and simple unadorned style goes beyond its original farmhouse roots and is compatible with traditional, transitional and contemporary architecture and décor. Shaker style cabinets are characterized by a five-piece door with a recessed center panel. Cabinets can be personalized with material, finish color, ornamental hardware and the addition of beveled or beaded profiles.

### BACKSPASHES OFFER DRAMA

Using the countertop material as the backsplash offers a clean modern look and adds the right amount of drama to a space. We like using a slab backsplash (meaning a full piece of stone or quartz) to achieve this and/or if you like a more traditional tiles look, consider using larger ones and also explore other tile options in various shapes, colors, textures or patterns.



### A CONNECTION TO THE OUTDOORS

Designers are bringing the outside in with solutions to add light and include natural materials in the space. The once standard "small window over the sink" is being replaced with much larger windows (and sometimes a full bank of windows). Natural materials including stone and wood are incorporated to add warmth and texture to any space.





# TRAVEL STORY

*Hosted by:* Albemarle Garden Club, The Augusta Garden Club, The Blue Ridge Garden Club, Charlottesville Garden Club, Hillside Garden Club, The Lynchburg Garden Club, Rivanna Garden Club and The Spotswood Garden Club

*Photo courtesy of Amanda Smithson*

## STAUNTON

Begin your week in Staunton, one of Virginia's premier historic preservation and beautification success stories. Get your Saturday started with a scrumptious pastry freshly baked at one of several locally owned coffee shops downtown, then enjoy plein air artists from Beverley Street Studio School working in tour gardens during the morning. Browse scenic parks, including Gypsy Hill's 214 acres, galleries and gardens designed by renowned landscape architect Charles Gillette on this walking tour showcasing the downtown area.

## ALBEMARLE COUNTY GARDENS

On Sunday, drive 40 miles northwest along Interstate 64 to Albemarle County's tour of private gardens in Charlottesville. On quiet, leafy streets surrounding the University of Virginia, some homeowners have transformed typical city lots into garden oases. Join the local Garden Club of Virginia (GCV) clubs on this intimate tour of three such gardens, where homeowner-gardeners have indulged their passion for unusual plants and stunning specimen trees, making creative use of garden spaces. Each property is owned by a GCV member, and has been developed over the years to showcase specific gardening talents and interests. At a time when gardens have become valued spaces for socializing, and offer quiet sanctuary to soothe our souls, tour goers will find inspiration in these city sanctuaries.

## MONTPELIER

Monday offers multiple choices. A memorial to the fourth president of the United States, James Madison, and his wife, Dolley, and the enslaved community who lived there, the main house of Montpelier has undergone a nationally acclaimed restoration to its original 1820 design. Past Historic Garden Week proceeds enabled the Garden Club of Virginia to assist in restoring the two-acre formal terraced Annie duPont Garden in the early 1990s. Breathtaking in any season, a succession of perennials including iris and Oriental poppies, makes it especially spectacular in April. In addition, visitors can explore the old-growth forest, current archaeological excavations, eight miles of scenic walking trails and the Gilmore Cabin.

Battlefields, vineyards and bed & breakfasts characterize the bucolic towns of the Shenandoah Valley. With significant academic institutions located in or nearby, visitors can enjoy unique shopping and sites straight from history class.



*Photo courtesy of Lockwood McLaughlin*

**Saturday, April 17**  
Staunton

**Sunday, April 18**  
Private gardens in Albemarle County

**Monday April 19**  
Monticello, Montpelier and James River State Park

**Tuesday, April 20**  
Lynchburg

**Wednesday, April 21**  
Harrisonburg

**Thursday, April 22 & Friday, April 23**  
Goshen Pass and Natural Bridge

**Saturday, April 24**  
Lexington

**MONTICELLO**

Monticello is another nearby history-focused option. Designed by and home to Thomas Jefferson, founder of the University of Virginia, author of the Declaration of Independence, and third president of the United States, its winding walk flower border was restored by the Garden Club of Virginia in 1939-41. Nearly 75 years later, proceeds from Historic Garden Week helped restore "Kitchen Road," the functional and visual link between Mulberry Row the industrial hub of the plantation, and the main house.

This extensive project included replanting trees according to Jefferson's original design. A complicated man, Jefferson enslaved over 600 people throughout his life. Learn about the men, women and children who built Monticello, planted his crops, tended his gardens and who helped run his household and raise his children. Don't miss the Saunders-Monticello Trail featuring deep ravines and spectacular views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The forested trail winds its way toward Monticello and back in a manageable four miles accessible to those in wheelchairs.



Photo courtesy of Claire Mellinger

**JAMES RIVER STATE PARK**

James River State Park features rolling grasslands, quiet forests and beautiful views, as well as three miles of shoreline along the James River, the longest in Virginia. It offers a relaxing break between tours. Visitors can hike, bike, canoe, kayak or camp on the banks of the river or at Branch Pond. As part of its Centennial project with Virginia State Parks, grants from the GCV made possible native landscaping and a pollinator garden at the park.

**LYNCHBURG**

Take scenic Rt. 29 southwest about an hour to Lynchburg on Tuesday. Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Lynchburg is home to timeless, classic architecture, tree-lined avenues and a rich history of preserving the area's celebrated homes and gardens. This self-driving tour features unique properties that showcase personal commitments to preservation, sustainability, and environmentalism. Curated by aesthetic homeowners who have blended traditional lines with modern sensibilities, the tour includes secluded gardens brimming with spring hues. Visitors will appreciate the owners' dedication to native plants, careful planning and attention to scale and proportion.



Photo courtesy of Lockwood McLaughlin

**ANNE SPENCER GARDEN**

While in Lynchburg, don't miss the Anne Spencer Garden, a Virginia Historic Landmark. Many nationally known Civil Rights leaders and prominent African Americans were guests of the Spencers during their lifetime. Anne loved both poetry and gardening. Beginning in 1983, her garden was restored to its 1937 appearance by the Hillside Garden Club, a GCV member club, which continues its routine maintenance. The garden has

twice won the Common Wealth Award from the Garden Club of Virginia, a grant program supporting projects in the areas of conservation, beautification, horticulture, preservation and education.

**HARRISONBURG**

On Wednesday, head north towards Harrisonburg, home of James Madison University and its Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

featuring native plants of the mid-Appalachians. Located in the middle of scenic mountain ranges, Harrisonburg, also known as "Rocktown," boasts local food and libations, arts and culture, and roots that anchor it to the Shenandoah Valley landscape. Starting at the Cross Keys Vineyard as tour headquarters, visitors will enjoy access to private properties that showcase both traditional and contemporary visions on this self-driving tour.

**NATURAL BRIDGE**

Thursday and Friday offer another short respite from organized touring with time to explore the Natural Bridge and its surroundings. Once settled by the Monacan Indians and surveyed by George Washington, this "Natural Wonder of the New World" is carved out of limestone and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The earliest written account of the bridge was in 1742 by the explorer John Peter Sallings, who settled in the region. In 1774, Thomas Jefferson successfully applied for a land grant from King George III that included the 215-foot-tall bridge. In the late 18th century it became a popular tourist destination. Featured on the very first Historic Garden Week Tour in 1929, the site became the 37th state park in Virginia's system in 2016.

**GOSHEN PASS**

Located just 12 miles north of Lexington is a 3.7-mile gorge along the Maury River with connections to the Garden Club of Virginia's back to its earliest days. The GCV has championed the cause to maintain the pristine beauty of Goshen Pass, Virginia's oldest natural area preserve, starting in the 1920s, fighting against development almost every decade since. Today, there are no electric power dams or roads running through it.

**LEXINGTON**

Spend the last day of Historic Garden Week 2021 leisurely exploring the delightful college town of Lexington. Meander through garden gates old and new allowing access to private properties showcasing tended gardens and farmed spaces that are as beautiful and productive as ever. Originally used to pave its streets, iconic red bricks were eventually moved to form distinctive sidewalks throughout

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*The Garden Club of Virginia is truly grateful for the steadfast commitment from our partners through their support of Historic Garden Week 2020, despite its cancellation. Special thanks to local 2020 Honor Roll sponsors and to Guidebook advertisers, listed here alphabetically and by the West region.*

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# what TO DO when

Monthly garden reminders from The Charlottesville Garden Club — seasonal excerpts from their popular "What to Do When" calendar of garden tips, first published in 1966

## [NOVEMBER]



### PLANT

- Plant tulips now through December. Properly planted bulbs will rebloom for three to four years.
- You still have time to plant lily bulbs. Also, water and mulch them.
- Plant deciduous trees and shrubs after they have gone dormant.
- Lilacs may still be planted. Add wood ashes and bone meal to the soil mixture in the hole.



### PRUNE

- Boxwood requires little or no pruning except when a branch outgrows the general habit of the plant or to restore overgrown plants. Thinning is a type of pruning that can reduce the size of the shrub. November or December is the best time to do this as long as the temperature is above freezing. This is most important for English boxwood as the interior leaf shoots die without adequate light or air circulation. Do this late November and use cuttings for holiday decorations.
- Limit pruning of early spring blooming shrubs and trees to the removal of awkward, damaged or diseased branches. Major pruning of these shrubs should be done in the spring after they bloom.

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### FERTILIZE

- A late fall application of 10-6-4 to boxwood will promote root growth and provide the best results. Because boxwood is shallow-rooted, surface application is best. Broadcast fertilizer over well mulched plants at the drip line.
- Feed deciduous trees and shrubs after they are fully dormant. Remember, roots grow during the dormant season.
- Fertilize wisteria after the leaves have fallen. Never fertilize during the spring and summer. This will cause more growth and less bloom. Always plant in full sun.



### MULCH

- Apply two to four inches of mulch after the ground freezes. Good mulch materials are rotted sawdust, straw, pine needles and ground up oak leaves (use your lawn mower for this).



### CHORES

- Turn off garden faucets. Drain hoses after disconnecting them from the spigot.
- Cut the lawn for the last time about two inches high.





[DECEMBER]



PRUNE

- Early in the month prune roses to mid-thigh. This prevents “wind whipping” and bushes bending during the winter.



CHORES

- Clean old leaves and twigs out of boxwood, particularly in the center. Disease and pest control can be avoided with proper sanitation. Soak roots of boxwood well before winter freezes the ground.



TIPS

- If you decorate with a live tree over the holidays, consider decorating it for birds after it is discarded. Hang with suet, seed containers and pine cones spread with peanut butter. An alternative is to cut branches from discarded trees and lay them over bulb or perennial beds which protects your plantings from heaving in the cold weather.

[JANUARY]



PLANT

- If the ground is frozen and you didn't have time to plant spring flowering bulbs during the fall months, lay black plastic over the area you want to plant. With sunshine it should thaw in a couple of days. Blooms will be less showy the first spring, but more spectacular the following year.



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- After a restful night's sleep, make one last stop at one of our historic sites before heading home

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PRUNE

- Beginning in January and through March, “tip prune” crepe myrtles for cosmetic purposes to encourage large clusters of blooms in the summer.
- Most deciduous trees can be pruned now while the leaves are off, with the exception of spring-flowering trees, which should be pruned after blooming.



FERTILIZE

- Put wood ashes from your fireplace on the vegetable garden, roses, lilacs, peonies, clematis and daffodils. This adds lime and potash to the soil. Do not use on acid-loving plants, such as azaleas and rhododendrons.
- Feed daylilies with 10-10-10 until late February or early March.



CHORES

- If you didn't test your soil in the fall, now is the time to do so. Soil should be tested every three to four years.
- Remove heavy snow from evergreens by tapping with a broom. Let ice covering melt naturally.
- Feed the birds suet and seed and provide a water source in your garden.



TIPS

- Use bird seed instead of salt on icy driveways and sidewalks. Salt will damage plantings and lawns.
- Cut back ornamental grasses.

Calendar available at [GCVirginia.org/main/shop](http://GCVirginia.org/main/shop) for \$15



[FEBRUARY]



PLANT

- Pansies if you didn't already add them to your garden in the fall.



PRUNE

- Buddleia and Russian sage to within six inches of the ground.
- Prune and shape late spring and early summer bloomers, such as spireas and abelia now and into March, before growth starts
- In late February or early March ornamental grasses should be cut down to six inches before new growth begins.
- Cut or mow liriopse to height of three inches.
- Cut back Clematis paniculata (Sweet autumn) to 12 inches. Blooming in September, it is long lived and can grow 25 feet in one season. Cut Clematis Jackmanii to 18 inches in early spring. It comes up again from the roots and remaining stems.
- Prune *hydrangea arborescens* (Annabelle) to the ground in late winter and fertilize lightly. It blooms on new shoots off old wood. *Hydrangea paniculata* (Grandiflora or PeeGee) which blooms in late summer should be pruned heavily now or in early spring.



FERTILIZE

- Feed iris bone meal and top with wood ash.
- Circle herbs with lime, especially lavender.
- As soon as daffodils emerge, use a handful of 5-10-10 around each clump of bulbs, and broadcast wood ash.
- Feed trees at the drip line.



TIPS

- In planning your perennial garden for the spring consider the following plants, which resist heat and humidity: yarrow, salvia and Joe Pye weed. Plants that resist drought are rudbeckia, coreopsis and steel globe thistle.

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This spring, each tour will offer a limited amount of tickets, and some of our larger tours will offer timed tickets. Tickets will only be available online at VAGardenWeek.org. Please check our website in mid-January for tickets and for updated information regarding touring logistics and protocols.

[MARCH]



PLANT

- This is the best time to plant and transplant boxwood. Don't plant too close around it as they are shallow rooted.
- Plant new roses in properly prepared beds, selecting a site which receives at least six hours of daily sunlight.
- When planting new shrubs, dig holes the depth of the root ball and two times the width.
- Dogwoods and magnolias are cold sensitive and best planted in late March.
- Hostas, daylilies, astilbe and coral bells can all be divided before new growth begins. New perennials can be planted in early spring.



FERTILIZE

- Peonies do not require fertilizer for two or three years after planting. Then apply a trowel full of bone meal each spring before blooming in a band six to eight inches from the crown of the plant. Work into the soil, being careful not to disturb the roots. If staking is necessary, place the stakes before the plants fill out.
- Perennials do well with 5-10-5 around plants in March, repeating at six week intervals with another treatment at the end of the summer for late bloomers.



MULCH

- Allow mulch to protect plants during late cold snaps.



CHORES

- Clean old leaves and twigs out of boxwood, particularly in the center. Disease and pest damage can be avoided with proper sanitation.
- If you didn't check the lawnmower and other lawn-care equipment last fall, now is the time to do it.

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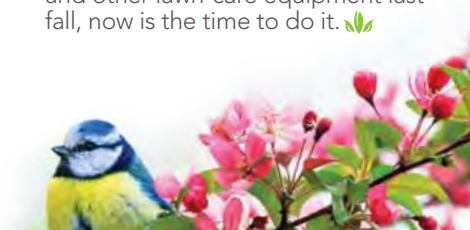
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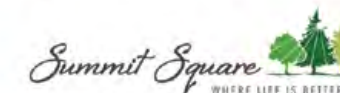
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#GCV, #GCVirginia,  
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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK 2021 VISIT [VAGARDENWEEK.ORG](http://VAGARDENWEEK.ORG)

“WHAT WOULD YOU PICK IF YOU COULD ONLY GROW 25 VARIETIES OF DAFFODILS?”

BY JANET HICKMAN,  
First Vice-president of the American Daffodil Society,  
Past GCV Daffodil Chairman and member of the  
Hillside Garden Club

That was the question asked of the members of the American Daffodil Society (ADS) recently. If you are new to daffodil cultivation, 25 varieties may seem like a lot, but many daffodil enthusiasts grow hundreds or thousands of daffodils, so this was a challenging query.

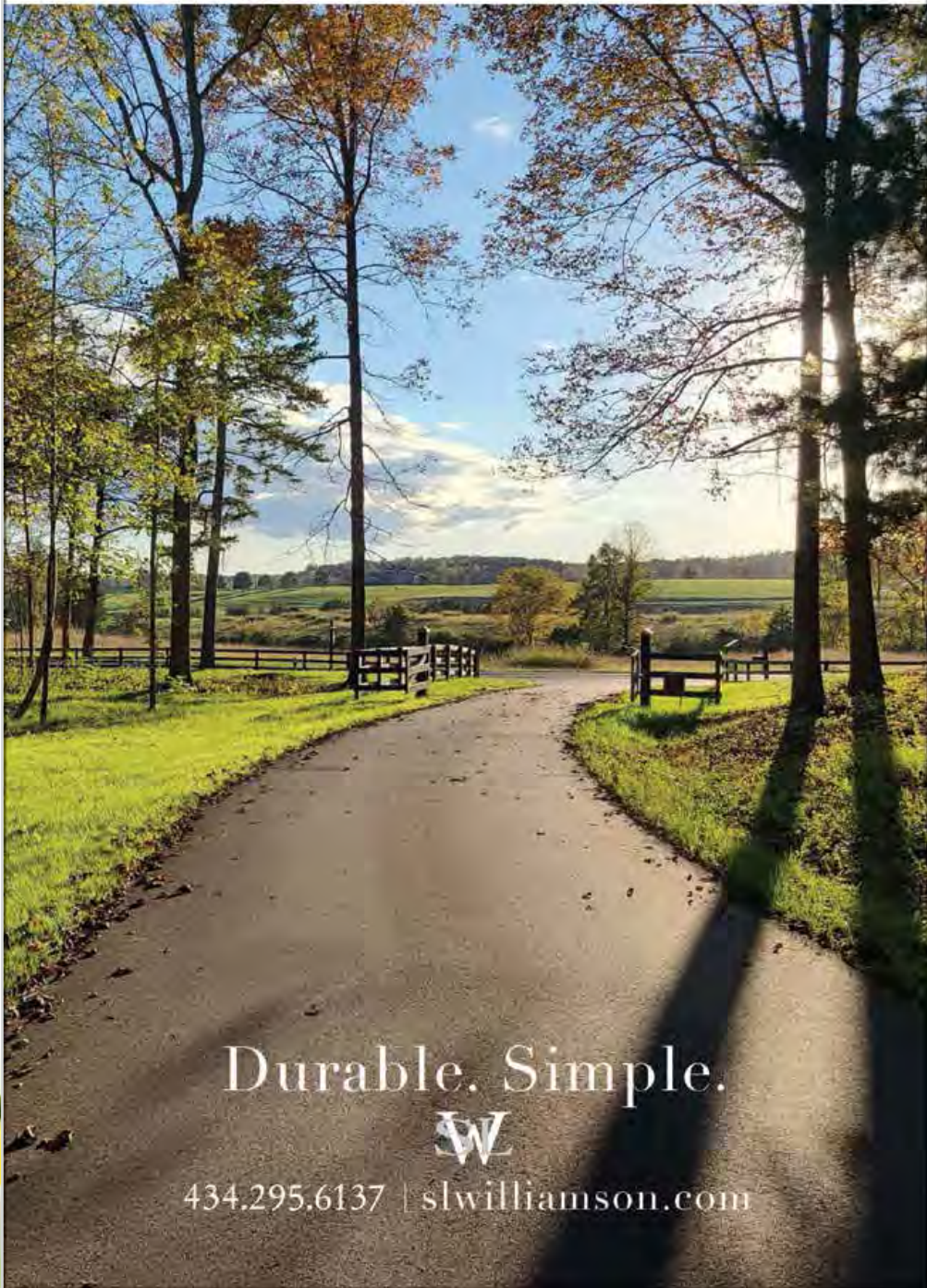
The answers form a list of tried-and-true varieties favored by ADS members, with the clear favorite being ‘Rapture,’ a mainstay in the early spring garden and a frequent winner in daffodil shows. Blooms of this charmer are clear yellow with a long straight cup and strongly reflexed petals.

The blooms of daffodils can last up to a month and are great in arrangements. Symbolic for new beginnings, which we all are craving, daffodils are the “flower” for December birthdays and ten-year wedding anniversaries.

‘Rapture’ received significantly more recommendations from serious daffodil fans than any other variety on the rest of the list.

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THE TOP 25 FAVORITE DAFFODILS

- Rapture
- Sweetness
- Fragrant Rose
- Tahini
- Tete-a-Tete
- Actaea
- Hawera
- Pacific Rim
- Bravoure
- Monal
- Thalia
- Barrett Browning
- Conestoga
- Ceylon
- Intrigue
- Geranium
- New Penny
- Salome
- Xit
- Avalanche
- Brooke Ager
- Dainty Miss
- Jetfire
- Mesa Verde
- N. jonquilla
- Tripartite





# SAVING OUR ECOSYSTEM

## ONE NATIVE PLANT AT A TIME

HEIDI JAMES, THE LYNCHBURG GARDEN CLUB AND GCV HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Imagine our commonwealth blanketed with native trees, shrubs and wildflowers from end to end. Virginia has unique and varying beauty, from its coastal region in the east to the piedmont and mountainous regions farther west. While the diversity of our flora and fauna is striking, a journey across the state could be more magnificent if we worked together to promote native plants specific to each region of the state. Lady Bird Johnson launched a successful mass wildflower planting across the state of Texas in the 1980s that is still a tourist attraction today. Could we do something similar in Virginia?



“Since native plants support biodiversity and the food web, it’s in our own best interest to plant them in our gardens, along our roadsides and in our communities, both in public and private spaces”

Photo courtesy of Nigel Dunnett

### What can you do to help?

- Start by adding native plants to your own gardens.
- Find the right native plants for your area: [plantvirginianatives.org](http://plantvirginianatives.org) or [nwf.org/nativeplantfinder](http://nwf.org/nativeplantfinder). The National Wildlife Federation Plant Finder lets you search by ZIP code.
- Reduce the size of your lawn or make it a bee-friendly lawn that includes native grasses and flowers.
- Stop using chemicals and fertilizers.
- Provide a source of water for pollinators and birds, such as a birdbath or bubbler.
- Finally, leave your garden intact through the winter to provide an essential habitat for native bees, butterflies and moths. The more of us who leave seed pods instead of cutting them from faded perennials, for example, the more quickly we can change the perception of what’s attractive in a garden.
- Help shift from a mowed and nearly lifeless lawn accented by introduced plants to a completely native environment in your own yard.

A “pollinator highway” might make Virginia a social media destination, but there are more serious issues at stake. We now know that indigenous plants are imperative for the mere survival of many of our native species of bees and other pollinators, insects, birds and mammals. They provide vital food and habitat for all species of our native wildlife and are adapted to local environmental conditions.

Furthermore, native plants require far less water, a precious though taken-for-granted resource, compared to non-native, or introduced plants. Since native plants support biodiversity and the food web, it’s in our own best interest to plant them in our gardens, along our roadsides and in our communities, both in public and private spaces. Depending on the grower and source, non-native plants could be treated with dangerous chemicals, and thus be harmful to pollinators, and often provide little benefit, other than ornamental, to the landscape.

The United Kingdom has launched the B-Lines Initiative, which aims to create at least 370,000 acres of flower-rich habitat. According to Buglife, the organization promoting the project, B-Lines are “an imaginative and beautiful solution to the problem of the loss of flowers and pollinators ... restoring and creating a series of wildflower-rich habitat stepping stones. They link existing wildlife areas together, creating a network, like a railway, that will weave across the British landscape. This will provide large areas of brand-new habitat benefiting bees and butterflies— but also a host of other wildlife.”

Virginia is two-and-a-half times smaller than England and seven times smaller than Texas. Could we create something similar in our state by working together? According to the Xerces Society, “Linking habitat areas by working with neighbors and your local or state transportation departments to add habitat along roadways brings the benefits of larger scale and helps make it possible for species to move from one place to another as the climate changes.” Named in honor of an extinct butterfly, this non-profit environmental organization focuses on the conservation of insects essential to maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem health. Next year marks their 50th anniversary.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is already on board. They have a strategy in place to add native wildflower perennials and grasses along state roads that are not

avored by deer, since they can be voracious grazers and also a hazard on roadways. VDOT is mowing less frequently and only on the shoulder of the road, allowing for a line of sight and space for motorists to pull-off, while protecting roadside habitats. This forward-thinking state agency recognizes that native vegetation stabilizes slopes, reduces erosion, increases stormwater and nutrients retention due to deep roots, is fit for our climate, and requires less maintenance. VDOT is reducing the use of herbicides and is helping to bring back pollinator species, including monarch butterflies.

“Across Virginia’s transportation sector, we are committed to integrating environmental stewardship and creating sustainable policies that support mobility, access and our quality of life. We want to be a part of why we all call Virginia home.” — Virginia Secretary of Transportation Shannon Valentine

Garden clubs and other civic organizations can make a difference by becoming a Bee City USA®. Their goal is to encourage cities, towns or counties to adopt practices that promote biodiversity and help pollinators. Ask your city to allocate its limited resources to landscaping and road maintenance in a way that benefits all of us. Add food and habitat for wildlife instead of spending funds to plant barren, non-native plants, and educate the public to do the same. There are four Bee Cities in Virginia: Hampton, Lynchburg, Scottsville and Vienna.

If more Virginia municipalities become Bee Cities, we can encourage our highway departments and regional VDOT offices to work together. We could literally “connect the dots” by creating a linked web of bee-friendly communities across the state. 🌱

Photos courtesy of Amy Walker, Donna Moulton, Jane Cowles and the Hillside Garden Club



Your free day on Friday includes overnight stops at any of four state parks within easy driving distance.

#### MARTINSVILLE

Begin the South Region itinerary in Martinsville mid-week. With history rooted in textiles and furniture, its Art and Culture District now plays an integral part in the revitalization of this former mill town. Located in a true “foothills” community, this tour takes visitors on country roads where expanses of pastureland reveal breathtaking mountain views. Visitors will enjoy the scenery near the Smith and Mayo Rivers that beckoned the original Native American settlers, Colonial farmers and industrial giants to the area. Fans of best-selling author Jude Deveraux will appreciate this self-driving tour where streets lined with mulberry trees, from one of the town’s oldest to its newer ones, parallel the evolution of the community.

#### DANVILLE

Danville is a historic river town centrally located on Routes 29 and 58. On Thursday, head east 30 miles to what was once a premier tobacco growing area in Virginia. Hosted by local GCV clubs in Danville and Chatham, this tour features rustic tobacco barns, as well as chic and modern barn entertainment venues. The historic barns are filled with references to the area’s past while another property features a restored cabin, as well as a newly built lodge and barn. Another property offers relaxing gardens and fountains.

#### FAIRY STONE STATE PARK

Friday includes overnights tops at any of four state parks. The Garden Club of Virginia (GCV) was instrumental in founding the State Park system, and recently celebrated its Centennial with the conclusion of a project that awarded 54 grants and \$500,000 over the past five years to Virginia’s parks. Fairy Stone State Park, the largest of the six original state parks founded in 1936, is home to mysterious “fairy



Photo courtesy of Amy Walker

stones” that are supposed to protect the wearer from sickness and misfortune. In partnership with the Martinsville Garden Club, the Garden Study Club and the Garden Club of Danville, it added a pollinator and monarch butterfly habitat in the shape of a fairy stone cross funded by Historic Garden Week.

#### SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE OR STAUNTON RIVER STATE PARK

Smith Mountain Lake State Park in Bedford County offers numerous water-related activities as well as miles of walking trails. For more strenuous hiking trails, consider the Peaks of Otter on the famous Blue Ridge Parkway. If your plan is to head to South Hill on Saturday, travel east to Staunton River State Park. Stay in cabins built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps with landscaped grounds made possible by a Centennial grant from the GCV. Access to Virginia’s largest lake, Buggs Island Lake, and the distinction of being the first state park to be designated an International Dark Sky Park, make it an ideal stopover.

#### OCCONEECHEE STATE PARK

Named for Native Americans who lived in the area for hundreds of years, Occoneechee State Park is also on Buggs Island Lake, and is popular with anglers, offering 48,000 acres of fishing, boating and aquatic recreation. The visitor center and museum introduce guests to Native American history and the indigenous

Occoneechee people. The park also has cabins that allow guests to enjoy the comforts of home as well as views of the lake.

#### SOUTH HILL

Saturday, the final day of Historic Garden Week 2021, provides two choices: west to Roanoke or east to South Hill. Originally called “South of the Hill,” this town of fewer than 10 square miles is situated at the junction of Boydton and Petersburg Plank Roads, near Virginia’s border with North Carolina. A railroad town since 1889 and a tobacco town since the 1900s, it is now a thriving



**Wednesday, April 21**  
Martinsville

**Thursday, April 22**  
Danville/Chatham

**Friday, April 23**  
Fairy Stone State Park or  
Smith Mountain Lake State Park  
*If heading east:*  
Staunton River State Park or  
Occoneechee State Park

**Saturday, April 24**  
Roanoke or South Hill

# TRAVEL STORY South

*Hosted by:* The Brunswick Garden Club, Chatham Garden Club, The Garden Club of Danville, Gabriella Garden Club, The Garden Study Club, The Martinsville Garden Club, Mill Mountain Garden Club and Roanoke Valley Garden Club

Photo above courtesy of Elizabeth Perkins

regional medical center and a busy commercial center.

This driving tour showcases properties in the Commercial Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places in South Hill, as well as access to the MacCallum More Museum and Gardens in Chase City. Located less than 40 minutes away, it is the former home of Lucy Morton Hudgins, wife to Edward Wren Hudgins, former Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. Five acres of botanical gardens and an arboretum were established in 1929, the year of the first Historic Garden Week, and became Hudgins' life's work. In addition to the gardens, the museum includes an arrowhead collection and Native American artifacts.

**ROANOKE**

Roanoke, sheltered in the southernmost end of Virginia's pristine Shenandoah Valley, boasts Southern charm, a temperate, four-season climate, and, remarkably, a mountain centered within its city limits. High along the banks of the Roanoke River, Mill Mountain stands as a beacon, welcoming visitors with an 88-foot-tall, man-made, illuminated star. The Blue Ridge Parkway weaves along the mountain, hiking trails criss-cross it, and neighborhoods—old and new—nestle against the base of its tree-filled slopes.



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this natural elevation. Each garden is unique in size and style, yet they are all nurtured by ardent gardeners who use plants, water features and

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ornamentation to bring their artistic visions to life. A bonus: the newly renovated Mill Mountain Wildflower Garden at the very top

of Mill Mountain serves as Tour Headquarters. 🌿

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*The Garden Club of Virginia is truly grateful for the steadfast commitment from our partners through their support of Historic Garden Week 2020, despite its cancellation. Special thanks to local 2020 Honor Roll sponsors and to Guidebook advertisers, listed here alphabetically and by the South region.*

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- SOVA Food Hub DBA Makers Market, South Hill
- The Stone House at Black Dog Salvage, Roanoke
- Town of South Hill, South Hill
- VCU Health Community Memorial Hospital, South Hill
- Virginia Museum of Natural History, Martinsville
- Virginia Varsity, Roanoke
- Yarid's shoes and accessories, Roanoke

# IT'S TOOL TUNE-UP TIME

BY SUSAN MORRIS, THE MARTINSVILLE GARDEN CLUB

It's November and gardens across Virginia are being put to bed. The next few months are a time to wait for the emergence of tender green shoots, one of the first signs of spring. Winter is an excellent time to service your outdoor equipment, making sure that secateurs, shears and trowels are ready in the spring.



## START THIS OFF-SEASON PROJECT BY FIRST CLEANING ANY RESIDUAL DIRT AND RUST FROM GARDEN TOOLS.

Brush off equipment with a stiff wire brush to dislodge most of the debris. Next, place your tools in warm, soapy water. A hard toothbrush, while not recommended for humans, is superb for cleaning small crevices and hinges.

Rinse and dry well. Worn towels and old T-shirts can be recycled and repurposed for this task.



## NEXT, MAKE A QUICK-CLEAN BUCKET.

Fill a one-gallon container with clean "play," or sandbox sand until it is within four inches of the brim. Add mineral oil to the sand until it is moist. You will need approximately ten ounces. Once prepared, insert tools into the bucket with blades and cutting edges down, pointing into the sand. This is a great way to lightly sharpen and oil-treat your tools during the gardening season as well, and is a safe and convenient way to store your tools. Just be sure to store the bucket in a dry location.

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# THE PAW PROJECT

BY SUSAN MORRIS, THE MARTINSVILLE GARDEN CLUB

Almost three years ago, the Martinsville and Garden Study Clubs, both part of a network of 48 member clubs comprising the Garden Club of Virginia, received a grant as part of a conservation award to develop a pollinator garden. The half-mile Paw Path runs along the scenic Smith River at the Smith River Sporting Complex. Designed to address conservation and preservation in the local community, the award made possible the following enhancements to the educational mission of the project.

## THEPAWPATH.ORG

was developed and launched last January to increase local community awareness of native plants and their importance in attracting pollinators.

## A MARKETING BROCHURE

was designed to accompany the experience and direct tourists to the trail.

## ADDITIONAL SIGNAGE

was created to provide driving and walking directions to the garden from nearby neighborhoods, and from the Dick and Willie Passage Trail, which follows a decommissioned railroad line from uptown Martinsville to the Smith River Complex.

## A 24-PAGE COLORING WORKBOOK

with sketches of native plants has been developed for each 1st grader in Martinsville city schools, in Henry County schools and at Carlisle School in Martinsville and will be distributed early in 2021.

Illustration above: Ehret, F.D., *Asimina triloba* (L.) Dunal [as *Annona triloba* L.] 1750. Trew, C.J., Ehret, G.D., *Plantae selectae*, vol. 1: t. 5. Illustration contributed by: Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, U.S.A. [plantillustrations.org](http://plantillustrations.org). Web. 23 Feb. 2015.

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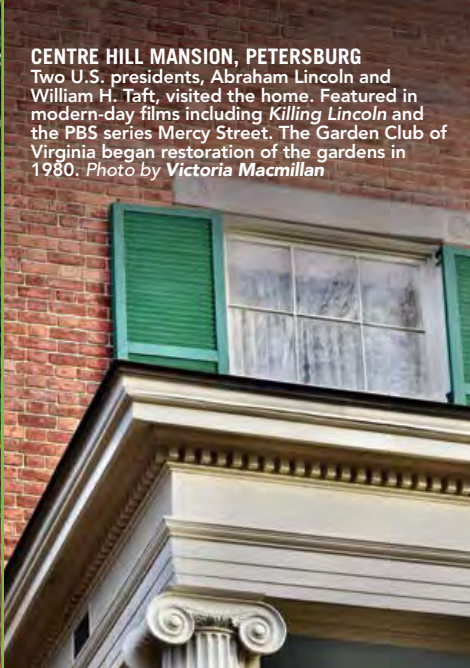
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THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA IS STRIVING TO MAKE HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE FOR ALL INVOLVED.

This spring, each tour will offer a limited amount of tickets, and some of our larger tours will offer timed tickets. Tickets will only be available online at VAGardenWeek.org. Please check our website in mid-January for tickets and for updated information regarding touring logistics and protocols.



**CENTRE HILL MANSION, PETERSBURG**  
Two U.S. presidents, Abraham Lincoln and William H. Taft, visited the home. Featured in modern-day films including *Killing Lincoln* and the PBS series *Mercy Street*. The Garden Club of Virginia began restoration of the gardens in 1980. *Photo by Victoria Macmillan*



**MONTPELIER IN MONTPELIER STATION**  
In the early 19th century, President James Madison had a large terraced garden of nearly four acres at his home at Montpelier. After the widowed Dolley Madison sold it in 1844, the garden suffered a half century of neglect. Purchased in 1901 by the duPonts, they began an extensive renovation. In 1989 the Garden Club of Virginia was approached for assistance restoring the two-acre formal garden. Today, the walled garden features a culinary garden, herb and medicinal garden, and a vegetable garden, as well as a variety of period flowers and a Victorian garden on the lower terraces. *Photo by Claire Mellinger*



**WILTON, RICHMOND**  
This Colonial mansion overlooking the James River was built southeast of Richmond between 1750 and 1753, and moved in 1934 to its present location. The grounds were landscaped by the Garden Club of Virginia in 1936. *Photo by Jane Cowles*

**HISTORIC KENMORE PLANTATION AND GARDENS, FREDERICKSBURG**  
Built by patriot Fielding Lewis and his wife Betty, sister of George Washington, the grounds were the first restoration project of the Garden Club of Virginia with funds from the first Historic Garden Week. *Photo by Lisa Vawter*



## THE WORK OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA *continues*

For nearly 90 years the Garden Club of Virginia has been celebrating the beauty of Virginia's landscapes and gardens through Historic Garden Week, its signature event. When Historic Garden Week 2020 was cancelled due to COVID-19, the Garden Club of Virginia focused on projects already underway, in particular, the carriage turnaround at Poplar Forest and the Reveley Garden at William & Mary, as well as supporting gardens the non-profit had previously restored. Once a project becomes a GCV restoration garden, it stays in the organization's system, becoming an ongoing project.

Tour proceeds have restored nearly 50 historic public gardens across the commonwealth, provided valuable research fellowships in the area of landscape architecture, and supported the GCV's Centennial project with Virginia State Parks. Taken by Garden Club of Virginia members, these photos are just a few examples of the projects made possible through proceeds from Historic Garden Week tours.

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA  
*Centennial*  
1920-2020

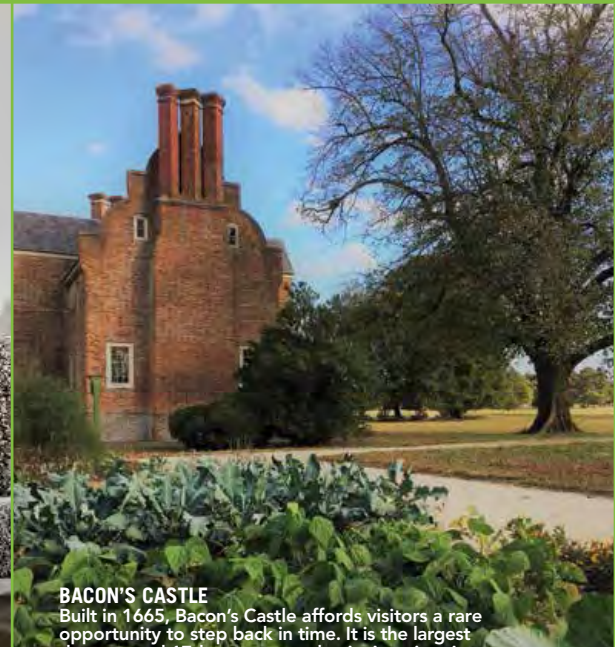
GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA AT 100



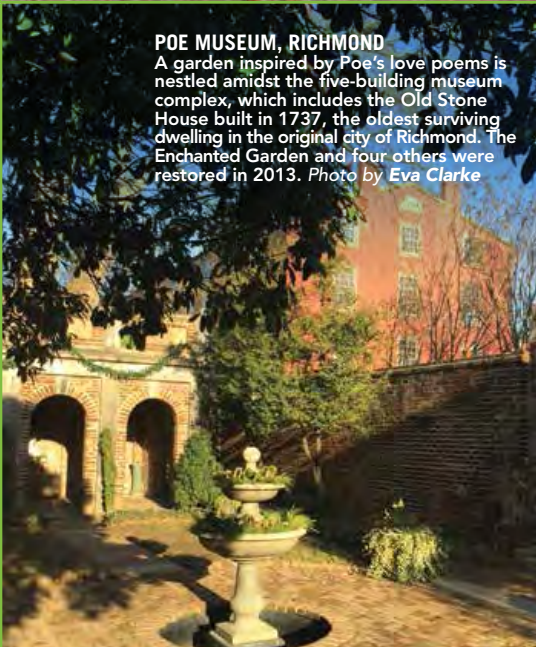
**MOUNT VERNON, ALEXANDRIA**  
On the Potomac River lies the home of George and Martha Washington. From the end of the American Revolution in 1783 to his election to the presidency in 1789, Washington replaced outbuildings, reshaped gardens, created new lawns, planted trees and even realigned roads and lanes. The Garden Club of Virginia helped to restore Mount Vernon's bowling green, one of the major landscape features on this vast estate. *Photo by Lea Shuba*



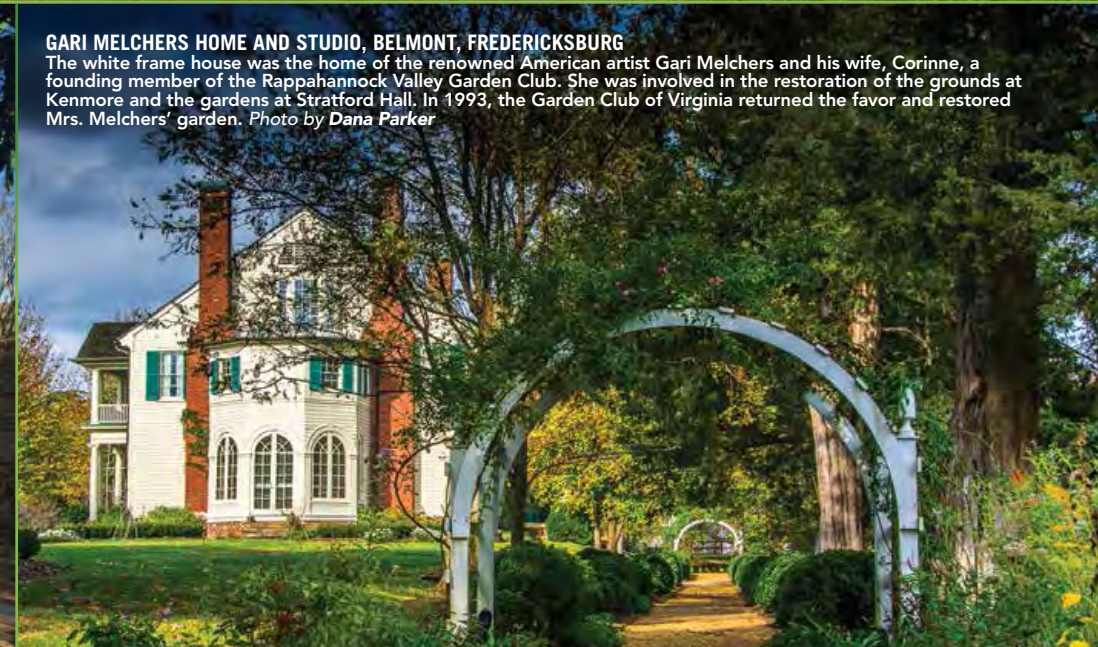
**JOHN HANDLEY HIGH SCHOOL**  
Constructed in 1922, the Garden Club of Virginia enhanced the park-like setting of the nation's only endowed public high school. The picturesque campus overlooks downtown Winchester and was recently voted the most beautiful high school in Virginia. *Photo by Sherry Rawls-Bryce*



**BACON'S CASTLE**  
Built in 1665, Bacon's Castle affords visitors a rare opportunity to step back in time. It is the largest documented 17th-century garden in America. An architectural gem, it features distinctive triple-stacked chimneys and curved Flemish gables. Several outbuildings survive, including an 1830 enslaved persons' dwelling. *Photo by Allison Clock*



**POE MUSEUM, RICHMOND**  
A garden inspired by Poe's love poems is nestled amidst the five-building museum complex, which includes the Old Stone House built in 1737, the oldest surviving dwelling in the original city of Richmond. The Enchanted Garden and four others were restored in 2013. *Photo by Eva Clarke*



**GARI MELCHERS HOME AND STUDIO, BELMONT, FREDERICKSBURG**  
The white frame house was the home of the renowned American artist Gari Melchers and his wife, Corinne, a founding member of the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club. She was involved in the restoration of the grounds at Kenmore and the gardens at Stratford Hall. In 1993, the Garden Club of Virginia returned the favor and restored Mrs. Melchers' garden. *Photo by Dana Parker*



# A Landscape Saved

GARDEN CLUB  
OF VIRGINIA  
*Centennial*  
1920-2020  
GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA AT 100



## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS BY GIVING TO VIRGINIA'S STATE PARKS

In the state parks, where land is protected, the mission of the garden club can be realized; native plants and trees are protected, educational programming has a natural classroom, and tourists enjoy all benefits of the outdoors. As our Centennial gift, we gave the commonwealth \$500,000 in grants to support 54 projects in communities both large and small. This award-winning and nationally recognized program continues a tradition of championing state parks and protecting our natural landscapes.

*"The funds provided by the Garden Club of Virginia will help us purchase the native plants and supplies needed to complete this project. Not only will it be an aesthetically pleasing view upon entering the park, but also it helps us educate our visitors on the importance of planting native at home."*

— PAUL ANDERSON, WIDEWATER PARK MANAGER

**TO CELEBRATE ITS 2020 CENTENNIAL, GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA LEADERS SEIZED UPON A PROJECT THAT LINKED THE PAST TO THE PRESENT.** In 1929 (the same year that Historic Garden Week was launched), with the Izaak Walton League and the Virginia Academy of Science, garden club members lobbied the Virginia General Assembly to establish state parks. The land that was to be set aside for public enjoyment of nature was representative of the best of the natural world throughout the various geographical regions of Virginia.



The efforts were successful, but it wasn't until 1936 that the state park system was formally instituted. The first State Parks were: Douthat, Fairy Stone, Hungry Mother, Seashore (now called First Landing), Staunton River and Westmoreland. Just as the GCV has grown, so has the Virginia state park system, which now boasts 39 parks from the Tidewater through the Piedmont, Blue Ridge Mountains, the Valley and to the mountains and Appalachian Plateau of western Virginia.

**GCV GRANTS FUNDED** native plant and pollinator gardens, improved displays in visitors' centers, educational programming and equipment, drinking water stations (for people and pets), trail improvements and children's discovery areas. In addition, the Youth Conservation Corps received money for supplies necessary for it to carry out its summer work programs, providing training for a new generation of environmental stewards.

*Photo to the left is the YCC at Belle Isle and New River Trail; The Youth Conservation Corps, a summer residential program for youths, was supported by the Garden Club of Virginia. Text provided by Jeanette Cadwallender. All Photos courtesy of Virginia State Parks and Scenic Virginia.*



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