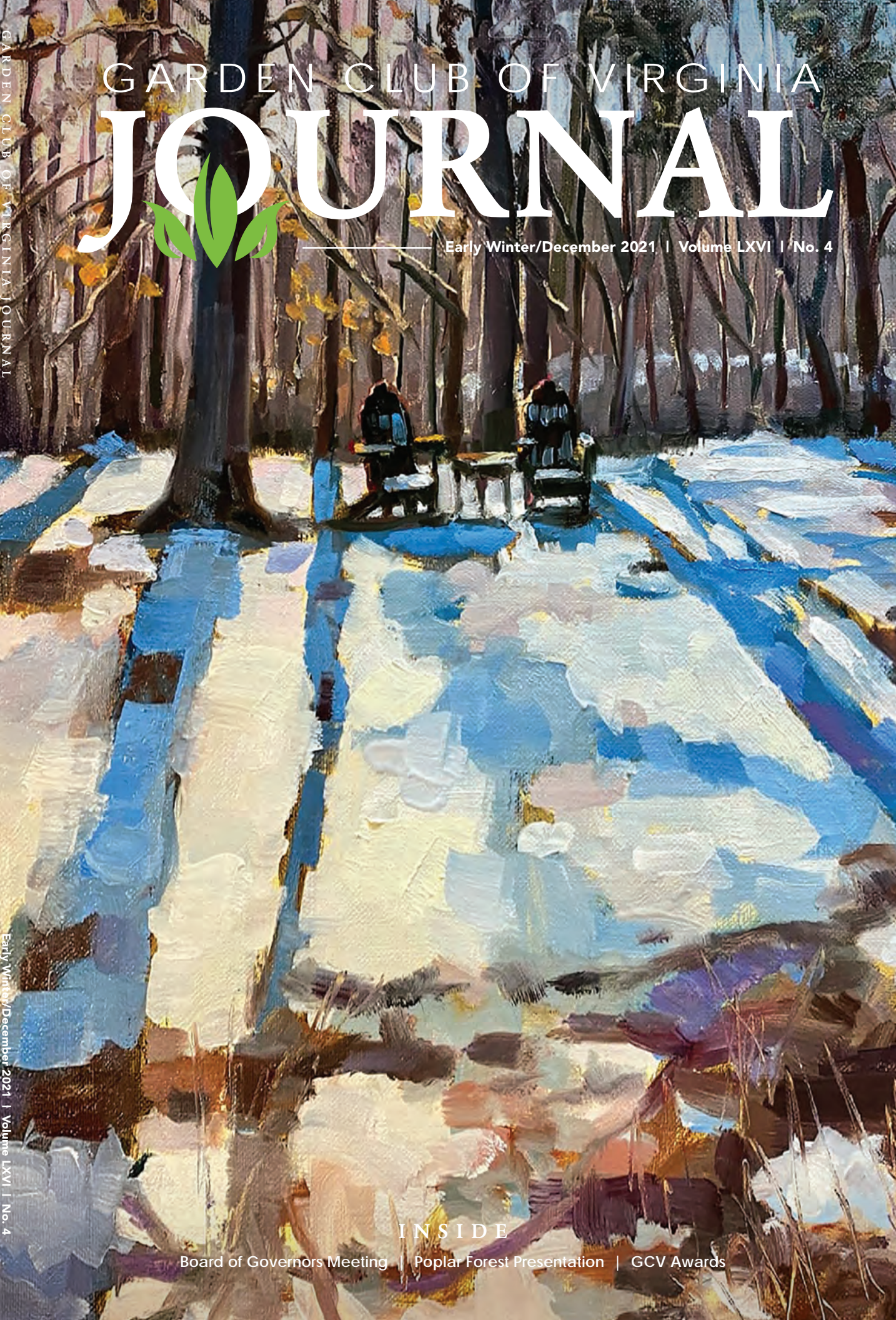


GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA JOURNAL



Early Winter/December 2021 | Volume LXVI | No. 4



INSIDE

Board of Governors Meeting | Poplar Forest Presentation | GCV Awards

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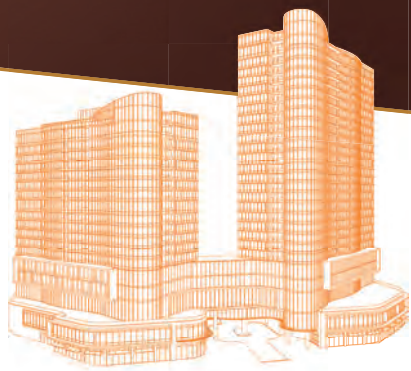


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GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA JOURNAL

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THE MISSION OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

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.

THE GCV JOURNAL

The Garden Club of Virginia *Journal* is published quarterly and is designed to address the interests and promote the activities of the Garden Club of Virginia and its member clubs. Organized to enhance and strengthen communication within the GCV, the *Journal* focuses on the mission of the organization: conservation and beautification, horticulture, restoration and education. Approximately 3,600 copies of each issue are mailed to members and subscribers.

A PDF version is available online at gcvirginia.org.

SUBMISSIONS

The *Journal* welcomes submissions by GCV committees, clubs and club members, as well as article ideas related to the GCV's mission and its initiatives and events. As a matter of editorial policy, all submissions will be edited for clarity of expression, space, style compliance, grammar, syntax, structure and messaging. Unsolicited material will be considered, but submission does not guarantee publication. For questions, please contact journal@gcvirginia.org.

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ISSUES — 2022	PUBLISHES IN	SUBMISSION DEADLINE
Winter	February	December 1
Spring	May	March 1
Summer	August	June 1
Fall	November	September 1

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For a rate sheet or more information, visit the GCV website at gcvirginia.org or contact *Journal* Ad Sales Manager at journalads@gcvirginia.org.

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Madeline Mayhood, *Journal* Editor
c/o Garden Club of Virginia
12 East Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23219
11/15/2021



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20

Photos, clockwise from left: Merlin Sheldrake, *photo courtesy of Random House*; The cover property for HGW 2022, Santilane, *photo by Donna Moulton*; Table setting from Board of Governors Meeting luncheon, *photo by Edie Hessberg*

COVER: *Beech Chairs First Snow*, by Sallie Sydnor, Hillside Garden Club

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ON THE COVER: ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

SALLIE SYDNOR

Sallie Sydnor captures in oil the fresh joy and dazzling light of the first snow of the winter in this Bedford County scene. "Light, color, and the beauty of everyday objects and situations fill my head," she says. "As soon as I could hold a pencil, I was hooked. The ability to put what I saw in the world onto a piece of paper consumed me." Here, in this snowy landscape, fascination shows, as she demonstrates convincingly Renoir's observation that white does not exist in nature.

This Hillside Garden Club member, who majored in art education as an undergraduate and has a master's degree in special education, only began to devote herself to her work when her three children were grown. Exhibiting in shows and galleries in Virginia, her work has earned multiple awards and placement in private collections. Sallie enjoys traveling and painting with other artists—from Central America and Europe, to her homes in Lynchburg and Pawley's Island. She also had a hand in the beautifully curated show of GCV artists and photographers in October at the Academy Center of the Arts in Lynchburg.

Her advice to others? "I learned to quit worrying about it and just do it. You get nowhere if you don't try. You just have to take the plunge."



Who wouldn't take the plunge into this bracing scene, two chairs warmed by the fleeting light of a winter's afternoon?

—Jeanette McKittrick, Three Chopt Garden Club, Cover Editor, GCV Journal

ABOVE RIGHT: *Beech Chairs First Snow*, 30" x 40", oil on canvas by Sallie Sydnor; Sallie Sydnor

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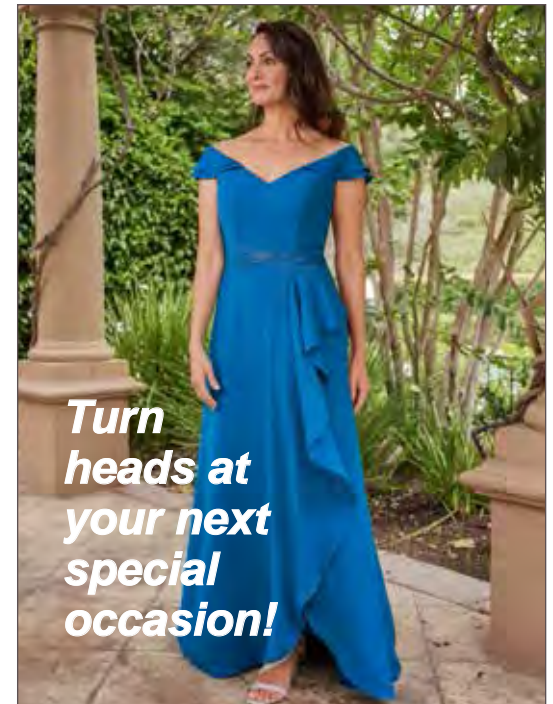


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OF VIRGINIA

DAFFODIL DAY

RICHMOND 2022
LEWIS GINTER BOTANICAL GARDEN



THE BRITISH ARE COMING!

Join GCV members and fellow daffodil enthusiasts March 29, 2022.

Daffodil Day returns as an in-person event at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond. The show's theme, *The British are Coming!* is a prelude to a GCV-sponsored, flower-arranging demonstration featuring famed London-based floral designer Paula Pryke taking place on May 12, 2022.

Hosted by the Garden Club of Virginia and the American Daffodil Society

Registration Opens

**January 15, 2022
GCVirginia.org**

The show's schedules for horticulture, artistic design and photography will reflect all things British. Style icons from across the pond who have made their mark in floral design and landscape architecture, like Constance Spry and Sheila Macqueen, are sure to inspire. One of the nation's largest daffodil shows will featuring award-winning daffodil specimens, spectacular floral arrangements and eye-catching photography.

In addition, enjoy beauty and blooms courtesy of more than 50 acres at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, home to one of GCV's restoration sites, the Grace Arents Garden, and the location of this 88th annual show. GCV's Membership Committee will also host a member orientation during judging, making this a date to mark on your calendar. The show opens to the public after judging, from 2 to 5 p.m.

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District 4 (2020-2022): Forrest Moore, Mill Mountain Garden Club
District 5 (2021-2023): Jennifer Kelley, The Garden Club of Alexandria
District 6 (2021-2023): Carrie Goodman, The Princess Anne Garden Club

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

EARLY WINTER 2021



The past months have been a whirlwind of activity as members, clubs, committees and leadership have returned safely to our activities, programs and events. It is clear that Garden Club of Virginia members are enjoying the special camaraderie that they share and a sense of purpose has been reawakened.

Enjoy the recaps of the many fall activities and events presented in this edition of the *Journal*. In the year ahead I hope that you will take advantage of the many

opportunities that will be offered by participating in the educational programs, workshops and special events that GCV committees have planned. Identify your interests, cultivate your passions and, perhaps most importantly, find enjoyment working and learning alongside your fellow club and GCV members.

As your president, I have been rewarded by being invited to your club meetings to have the opportunity to meet with you, to thank you for the continued impact that you make in your communities and to express my appreciation for all that you do to support the mission of the Garden Club of Virginia. I am thoroughly enjoying my travels throughout the state. I sense a renewed energy and enthusiasm as we make our plans together to pave the path forward into a purposeful and impactful second century of service.

Missy

Missy Buckingham
GCV President, 2020-2022



LOOK UP, TOO, TO WELCOME WINTER



The days have shortened and cold temps have settled in. Winter is here. I hear lots of chatter about “putting your garden to bed”—as if gardens are only enjoyable in three seasons. But I find such rich interest in the winter landscape. Next time you’re near a sycamore on a clear, crisp day, look up and notice those muscular white branches against an azure sky. There’s nothing quite like it. And bark. It takes

on a whole new meaning in the winter—the plates on a loblolly, the deep furrows of a sweetgum, the red-red of a red twig dogwood, sloughing strips from a paperbark maple. These are nature’s gifts, and they’re worth noticing.

Enjoy these pages of the *Journal* where we hope you’ll take notice what the GCV has been up to over the past several months. Talk about a flurry of activity! We bring you highlights from the Board of Governors meeting in Lynchburg in October and shine a spotlight on our friend and new honorary member Peggy Cornett. Plus, we share awards galore, club news, and a well-crafted book review, thanks to *Journal* Committee member Louise Freeman—possibly one of the most interesting titles I’ve seen in years, *Entangled Life*.

I’m not fussy about my winter garden, but I do look at it through a different lens. I let the birds tell me when to deadhead—when they’ve had their fill of seeds and pods. I try to leave as much leaf litter in place for the critters to stay warm. It’s hard for me to say goodbye to some of the container plantings that brought me such joy all season long, especially those with tender annuals, so I admit to keeping them around till the last second possible. But eventually I do bid them a grateful farewell.

And as we say goodbye to 2021, we on the GCV *Journal* Committee wish you a happy and healthy holiday season. We’ll be back in 2022, newly invigorated, and eager to provide newsworthy articles. As always, we welcome whatever comments and ideas you may have to share.

See you in the garden,

Madeline Mayhood

Madeline Mayhood
GCV Journal Editor
journal@gcvirginia.org
The James River Garden Club



GCV JOURNAL 2021 COMMITTEE

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ADVERTISING MANAGER

Kay Tyler,
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journalads@gcvirginia.org

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The Blue Ridge Garden Club



2021 COMMON WEALTH AWARDS



JILL'S GARDEN—UNION MISSION WOMEN & CHILDREN'S SHELTER, NORFOLK
Proposing club:
Harborfront Garden Club

Congratulations to Harborfront Garden Club, the first place recipient of the 2021 Common Wealth Award for its project in Norfolk, *Jill's Garden at Union Women & Children's Shelter*. Second place was awarded to The Brunswick Garden Club for its project in Lawrenceville, *A Trail to the River at Fort Cristanna* in Lawrenceville. Stay tuned for more coverage of these impressive projects in future issues of the *Journal*.



SECOND PLACE



A TRAIL TO THE RIVER AT FORT CHRISTANNA, LAWRENCEVILLE
Proposing club: The Brunswick Garden Club

Paula Pryke is On!

Paula Pryke, one of the world's most renowned floral designers, is finally able to join us for a spectacular hands-on demonstration at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture in Richmond. This event, scheduled for May 12, 2022, is a long-awaited, previously scheduled Centennial event that is sure to sell out. Stay tuned for registration details on the GCV website and in *Membership News*. And remember: Get your tickets early!



DEADLINE for GCV Awards

MARCH 1, 2022 is the deadline for nominations for the following GCV awards:

- Common Wealth Award
- de Lacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation
- Horticulture Award of Merit

For more information, including past recipients and nomination forms, visit the GCV website. GCVirginia.org. Completed nominations should be post-marked by March 1, 2022, and sent to GCV headquarters: 12 East Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23219 or sent by email to communications@gcvirginia.org by 5 p.m. on March 1.



Spotted lanternfly. Photo from Pixabay

WARNING! SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

The spotted lanternfly (SLF), indigenous to China, India and Vietnam, is now officially infesting plants in many parts of the U.S., particularly on the East Coast. Absolutely stunning but highly invasive and destructive, it's technically a planthopper and not a fly. The SLF prefers the (also invasive) tree of heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*, as its host, however, Bartlett Tree Experts warns there are now 100 known hosts, including hickories, maples, pines, poplars, red oaks, walnuts, willows, and *Prunus* and *Malus* species. If egg masses are

detected, they can be scraped off, double-bagged, and thrown away. If you spot an SLF infestation, various state departments of agriculture advise doing just about anything to get rid of them—squash 'em, smash 'em, stomp 'em, just get rid of 'em—and call your local extension office to report the infestation immediately. They do massive damage not only to trees, but to crops, as well. Bartlett advises checking with your arborists for SLF management. For more info, visit the USDA's spotted lanternfly video on YouTube.



Oak Spring



The Garden Club of Virginia's early October event held at Bunny and Paul Mellon's former estate, Oak Spring, was a rousing success. "It was a picture-perfect fall day," says GCV President Missy Buckingham. On hand were members of Oak Spring Garden Foundation's staff who provided educational, horticultural and site-specific information—about the Mellon's private estate and gardens at Oak Spring and Rokeby's Biocultural Conservation Farm—to the 250 members and guests who visited this extraordinary property in Upperville.

Oak Spring photos, L-R: Bunny Mellon's garden in October, her famous crab apple arbor. Photos by Dana Parker

New Historic Garden Week Resource

A helpful primer—*Suggested Plant Material and Flower Arranging Tips*—specifically designed for Historic Garden Week is now available. GCV committee representatives from Artistic Design, Horticulture, and Conservation and Beautification participated in creating this valuable resource. "We had numerous requests over the years to compile the extraordinary amount of institutional knowledge that exists on what works best for Historic Garden Week," says Karen Ellsworth, director of HGW and editor of the



Guidebook. From the best plants for your garden to what works best in arrangements, the new guide is incredibly useful. Find it on the Historic Garden Week website and on the GCV home page. VaGardenWeek.org or GCVirginia.org



GCV PRINCIPLES & ELEMENTS OF DESIGN

- Principles of Design:**
1. Balance
 2. Dominance
 3. Contrast
 4. Rhythm
 5. Proportion
 6. Scale

These principles are the ways in which the tools are used to achieve beauty, expression, and distinction. The principles are the "how."

- Elements of Design:**
1. Light
 2. Space
 3. Line
 4. Form
 5. Size
 6. Pattern
 7. Texture
 8. Color

Presidents Meeting: Membership — Recruitment

With 48 clubs throughout the state, no two clubs are the same. Each is a reflection of its community, its history and the spirit of its members, and each faces different challenges. During President's Day, held in September, the focus was the all-important topic of membership and how the GCV can support clubs and share best practices.

Three important membership-centric issues were up for discussion: recruitment, retention and engagement. Club presidents from each district broke into small groups in order to encourage effective conversation and brainstorming. Read all about recruitment and the inventive ways clubs are attracting members in the bulleted points on the right. Presidents addressed questions like how does your club recruit new members? How are you accommodating new members' busy lives? How are you thinking outside the box to attract new members? Stay tuned for more results from membership brainstorming sessions in future *Journal* issues.



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SNIPS articles and photos are all about showcasing Garden Club of Virginia clubs and members, so share your news with the broader GCV membership. 250 word maximum + photos (1 MB minimum). • For more information, head to the Publications tab on the GCV website and click on "Instructions for Submissions to the *Journal*" or email journal@gcvirginia.org with questions or to submit your SNIPS directly.

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA
JOURNAL

Recruiting Ideas

- Club presidents reported effective recruiting through friends, neighbors, acquaintances through other organizations (e.g. churches, master gardeners, conservation groups), legacy members, non-GCV garden clubs, social media, a "contact" button on club websites;
- Invite prospective members to club programs, ask them to be a hostess during Historic Garden Week, or bring them to GCV events that are open to the public;
- Hold small, informal social gathering with prospective members to share gardening or flower arranging tips and meet other club members;
- Some clubs offer a junior membership category for those under a certain age. Dues and attendance requirements are adjusted accordingly to attract a younger (35-45) demographic to join. After a certain time period, the junior members become eligible for full membership;
- Easing membership requirements overall, such as attendance and exhibiting requirements;
- Mixing up meeting times (morning, lunchtime, late afternoon, evening) so that everyone has an opportunity to choose a meeting time that works best for their schedule, particularly working members;
- Invite local garden clubs to your club programs or fundraisers;
- Explore new initiatives.



2020 Massie Medal

**AWARDED TO
KIMBROUGH KOONTZ NASH**

After being delayed for more than a year, the much anticipated 2020 Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement was presented to Kimbrough Koontz Nash at the October 2021 Board of Governors meeting in Lynchburg. The medal was aptly inscribed "in recognition of her judicious leadership, grace and humor guiding the Garden Club of Virginia to the next century." Remarkably, says GCV President Missy Buckingham, "we were able to keep it a secret from Kim." By all accounts, she was genuinely stunned when the award was announced.

Ostensibly to have been given in the GCV's Centennial Year, the Massie Medal recognizes Kim's unwavering dedication over nearly four decades of service. Upon joining the Warrenton Garden Club in 1982, she immediately became one of its most engaged members, assuming nearly every leadership role—from committee chairmanship to president. She also served as chairman of Historic Garden Week and, then in the 1990s, she joined the GCV's Board of Directors on which she served



PHOTOS, L-R: Missy Buckingham, Kim Nash and Anne Baldwin, Chairman, Massie Medal Committee (2020-2022). *Photo by Edie Hessberg*; Susanne Massie, Albemarle Garden Club, GCV President 1926-28

APPLAUSE: AWARDS & ACCOLADES



A surprised Kim Nash as the Massie Medal was announced at the Board of Governors meeting in October. *Photo by Edie Hessberg*

for 12 years. On the Restoration Committee, which culminated in her appointment as the committee's chairman, Kim earned wide respect for her knowledgeable and vigorous support of a number of projects including Green Spring Gardens, Poplar Forest, Monticello Kitchen Road, Stratford Hall and Historic Henry Courthouse in Martinsville. She also served as GCV's recording secretary, second vice president, first vice president, and chairman of the nomination and restoration committees. She became the GCV's president in 2015. Kim's initiatives in this role, particularly with regard to horticulture, restoration and conservation, helped modernize the organization and secure its success.

An avid gardener and conservationist, Kim, along with her husband, Bunny, have placed their property,

Granville near Warrenton, in a conservation easement with the Virginia Outdoor Foundation. VOF has protected nearly one million acres of Virginia's farmland, parks, forests and other open spaces, making it one of the country's largest land conservation organizations. As an accomplished horsewoman, Kim was joint master of the Warrenton Hunt and is a Lucas terrier enthusiast.

The Massie Medal is the GCV's oldest and most prestigious award. First inaugurated in 1928 by Susanne Williams Massie during her presidency, it was given by her until her death in 1952; since then, it has been given in her memory. In keeping with Susanne Massie's original intention, the GCV's standing rules states that the Massie Medal's recipient "must have served the Garden Club of Virginia with unusual dedication and distinction. The recipient(s) must have been effective in promoting the betterment of The Club, demonstrated excellence in horticulture, restoration, preservation or conservation of the natural resources of our commonwealth." Kim's devotion to our commonwealth and the principles she embraces have informed many of her life choices—no more so than her commitment to the Garden Club of Virginia.

**—Dianne Spence, Chairman,
Massie Medal Committee,
2018-2020, The Williamsburg
Garden Club**





The Conservation Educator Award

The Garden Club of Virginia's Conservation Educator Award recognizes an individual or an organization whose work in an educational environment empowers the GCV's mission—to celebrate the beauty of the land, to conserve the gifts of nature and to challenge future generations to build on this heritage. The recipient may be an educator, scout leader, 4-H leader, Master Gardener or an environmental organization. Established in 2016, the award is a "recognition award," which promotes the ideals of conservation through education; the recipients are honored for successfully creating a learning "situation" which benefits the community. Evaluating determinants of the Conservation Educator Award include the nominee's educational initiatives and their impact on the community, the involvement of the community, speakers/volunteers and hands-on opportunities. The 2021 recipients of this important, mission-centric GCV award are Allegheny Mountain Institute and Norfolk Botanical Garden's Jennifer Erving.



ABOVE: Augusta Garden Club members Virginia Gillock (2nd from left) and Marie Thomas (2nd from right) with Allegheny Mountain Institute staff members.

ALLEGHENY MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE | HIGHTOWN
Nominated by The Augusta Garden Club, Staunton

Allegheny Mountain Institute began in 2011 as the Allegheny Mountain School with a mission to cultivate healthy communities through food and education. Its founder, Laurie Berman, recognized the need to reinvigorate Appalachian communities to return to their agrarian roots—learning to grow their own food again and taking charge of their personal health and that of their communities. In 2014, AMS officially renamed itself Allegheny Mountain Institute. The organization's vision remains the same as it was a decade ago: to train the trainer. In other words, to teach others to experience the joys and health benefits of growing one's own food and teach others to do the same.

Allegheny Mountain Institute hosts classes and workshops in the communities of Highland County, Rockbridge County, Augusta County, Staunton and

Waynesboro. Approximately 24,000 pounds of vegetables support community health through a variety of initiatives, such as Crop to Community and Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. AMI's Executive Director, Kim Davidson, works with the board, volunteers and the Fellowship Program to teach others to experience the joys and health benefits of growing one's own food. The Fellowship Program is central to AMI's success. Eight to nine fellows are recruited for an 18-month immersive, educational experience. During the first six months, they receive hands-on, farm-based training using bio-intensive, organic and regenerative practices. In the next year, the training is put into action by helping grow the local food system, supporting sustainable farming, increasing access to nutritional food and promoting health through educational programming. These initiatives have led to AMI's success in bringing together diverse individuals in the community and promoting equity in its programs.

JENNIFER ERVING, YOUTH EDUCATION SPECIALIST, NORFOLK BOTANICAL GARDEN
Nominated by The Garden Club of Norfolk

Jennifer Erving has worked at the Norfolk Botanical Garden for over 15 years as an in-the-field educator at the NBG's WOW garden—the World of Wonders Children's Garden. She has designed discovery stations, scavenger hunts, walking tours and a "dirt factory" play area—all with the goal of encouraging children to enjoy the outdoors, learn the benefits of a connection to nature, and introduce them to the magic of gardening.

With the limitations imposed by the pandemic, Erving developed Nature Quest, an interactive app which provides immersive garden experiences. Launched in July, Nature Quest includes photo scavenger hunts, games and educational activities. "Victory Gardens on Discovery Peak" was her first NBG Nature Quest, and it invites teams or individuals to engage with edible plants in the WOW garden.

Erving has served as an inspiration to children—and their parents—and she has reason to be optimistic about the future. "I've seen a monumental shift in how children respond to environmental education over the past decade," she says. "More and more are becoming advocates for global sustainability and fighting climate change."

By developing creative and innovative programming and garden design, Erving has encouraged children to be curious about the environment, learn about other species that share our planet, where food comes from and the rewards of being outside. From the beginning of her professional

"As an educator, I remain committed to helping children find those moments in the garden that will further foster their growing commitment to preserving the natural world." — JENNIFER ERVING



career with the YMCA to her innovative programs at Norfolk Botanical Garden, she has shared her passions with thousands of children and families. "As an educator," she says, "I remain committed to helping children find those moments in the garden that will further foster their growing commitment to preserving the natural world."

In addition to the GCV's 2021 Conservation Educator Award, Erving was also honored by The Garden Club of America. She is a 2021 recipient of their Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Award, which recognizes individuals around the country who work with youth under the age of 16 to inspire their "appreciation of the beauty and fragility of our planet."

—Jane Edwards, GCV Conservation Awards Chairman, The Garden Club of Norfolk



TOP: Norfolk Botanical Garden's WOW Garden. ABOVE: Jen Erving, GCV's 2021 Conservation Educator Award recipient.

Photos courtesy of Norfolk Botanical Garden





The Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award for Conservation:

THE NORTHERN NECK LAND CONSERVANCY AND SCENIC VIRGINIA'S LEIGHTON POWELL

The Garden Club of Virginia's Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award for Conservation was first presented in 1974 and was named for Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale of the Ashland Garden Club, originator of the Conservation Forum. It is given annually for outstanding work in conservation to an organization, industry or an individual who is not a Garden Club of Virginia member.

Congratulations to the 2021 recipients—The Northern Neck Land Conservancy and Scenic Virginia's Leighton Powell.

NORTHERN NECK LAND CONSERVANCY, LANCASTER

Nominated by The Garden Club of the Northern Neck

The Northern Neck Land Conservancy is one of two 2021 recipients of the GCV's Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award for Conservation. Formed in 2004 with a mission to "preserve the rural heritage of the Northern

Neck by conserving its lands, water, economies and culture for future generations," NNLC began in the backyard of one of its founders. Operations have expanded and are currently housed in a historic building on Main Street in Lancaster for the organization's 11-member board of directors and staff; volunteers span across the five counties of the Northern Neck—Lancaster, Northumberland, Westmoreland, King George and Richmond—which is further geographically defined as being bordered by the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. NNLC has emerged as a leader in protecting the land of the Northern Neck and its unique way of life for the future.

NNLC's mission encompasses four goals: conserving open space in the peninsula of the Northern Neck; preserving the area's unique historic sites and rural heritage; encouraging responsible stewardship of the

Northern Neck's rich biological bounty and natural beauty by residents and visitors and maintaining an effective organization to ensure mission success. The primary vehicle to accomplish these goals is through the use of conservation easements. Since 2004, the NNLC has assisted in preserving 6,100 acres of the Northern Neck into conservation easements, including more than 13 miles of waterfront.

Accepting the award on behalf of the conservancy, its board, staff, volunteers and generous landowners was NNLC Board President Capt. Stuart Ashton, Jr., USN Ret. The presentation was made at Mount Zion, a restored historic home in Lottsburg owned by the Cowart family. The property showcases the conservancy's work to convene forward-thinking funders and land preservation allies for the greater good of the Northern Neck. "Our organization's founders



L-R: GCV Executive Director Andrea Butler, Jeanette McKittrick (Three Chopt GC), Jane Edwards (GC of Norfolk), Leighton Powell, Betty Byrne Ware (James River GC), Sarah Price (Three Chopt GC), Becky Anthony (Three Chopt GC) and Lisa Mountcastle (GC of Alexandria)

understood the immense value of the Northern Neck—our open spaces, abundant wildlife, and our rural heritage," said Capt. Ashton. "We can all be grateful to their vision, effort and expertise. NNLC is benefiting us now and will continue to do so for years to come."

LEIGHTON POWELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SCENIC VIRGINIA

Nominated by Jeanette McKittrick, Three Chopt Garden Club, Richmond

Leighton Powell's life's work has focused on preserving the natural beauty of the Commonwealth of Virginia. As executive director of Scenic Virginia, Powell has been a stalwart conservationist and preservationist, working tirelessly to protect significant historic and scenic vistas throughout the state.

Founded in 1998 by ardent conservationist Hylah H. Boyd of The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton, Scenic Virginia is the only statewide conservation organization dedicated solely to the preservation, protection and enhancement of our Commonwealth's scenic

beauty. Since 2000, Powell has led the organization by promoting the physical, emotional and economic benefits of scenic beauty. Programs such as the annual Virginia Vistas Photo Contest showcase the immense variety of Virginia's scenic assets; the yearly Scenic Awards Program honors achievement in scenic preservation. (Scenic Virginia recognized the Garden Club of Virginia as its Scenic Hero in 2004.)

Powell's relentless work to save "The View That Named Richmond" rallied conservationists to speak out against inappropriate development that would mar the iconic view of the James River that inspired William Byrd II to name his new Virginia settlement Richmond (due to its strong resemblance to the view of the River Thames in Richmond upon Thames, England). The multi-year battle to preserve "The View" inspired Powell and Scenic Virginia to develop a new multi-pronged project to assist Virginians in identifying their most treasured views and vistas, sooner rather than later, to avoid future

development fights. The resulting Virginia Viewshed Project is the first of its kind in the U.S. and is being heralded by visual resource professionals as a much needed tool for local scenic preservation.

At the Dugdale Award presentation ceremony on November 1 at The View That Named Richmond, Powell stated, "I can think of no other award that would be as meaningful to receive as the Dugdale, and I was actually rendered speechless when I got the call because of what it represents. Scenic Virginia's roots are in the Garden Club of Virginia, and it has been a complete joy and honor to work so closely for 21 years with the fantastic, brilliant women of the GCV. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for this award."

—Jane Edwards, GCV Conservation Awards Chairman, The Garden Club of Norfolk



NNLC: Members of the Northern Neck Land Conservancy with GCV Conservation Awards Chairman Jane Edwards (2nd from left) from the Garden Club of Norfolk. Photo courtesy of Laurie McCord



HIGHLIGHTING HORTICULTURE & HOMES

By Karen Cauthen Ellsworth,
Director of Historic Garden Week

Have you ever wondered how the site showcased on the cover of the annual Historic Garden Week *Guidebook* is selected? And how the Historic Garden Week “flower” that graces the poster and local tour brochures across the state is chosen?

Since 2012, when the Historic Garden Week poster featured purple wisteria, there has been a common misconception that the HGW Committee decides which bloom to highlight. “It happens the other way around,” explains Tricia Garner, Chairman of Historic Garden Week. “The photo of the site selected to become the *Guidebook* cover inspires the decision as to what flower to feature on the HGW poster.

We encourage clubs and tour teams to submit proposals to be considered for this unique honor. Here are a few things to keep in mind if you have an outstanding property your club would like to propose for 2023:

- Will the house and/or garden be ready to be photographed this coming spring, anytime from mid-April through early May 2022?
- Can you provide a plant list of what will be blooming on the property in April or May?
- Every consideration is made to ensure that all areas of the state are equally represented and given every opportunity to receive this special attention.
- Region Representatives present proposals to the full Historic Garden Week Committee at its winter meeting. This year, the decision of which property to showcase in 2023 will be made on January 27, 2022.

Nine months before the *Guidebook* is distributed, hundreds of images are taken at the property that will be featured on the cover the following spring. From that photo, the perennial blossom, flowering branch or blooming bulb is determined, becoming the distinct icon for the upcoming Historic Garden Week.



Roanoke’s HGW 2022 tour features five private homes and gardens, including Santillane, the cover property for the 2022 *Guidebook*. The current owners of Santillane are avid gardeners, and the c. 1795 brick Georgian is surrounded by magnificent old-growth trees. In the front are white oaks estimated to be 350 years old. It is also surrounded by chestnut and magnolia trees. “Because the magnolia lasts for many years and is supposedly one of the first flowering plants to evolve on earth, it symbolizes longevity, endurance, as well as durability and determination. That’s where the term ‘steel magnolias’ must come from,” explains Missy Buckingham, president of the Garden Club of Virginia. “Patience and perseverance have long been our strong suit as an organization,” she adds.

Photos by Donna Moulton

For example, the cover image for 2022 features this inviting scene of quintessential Southern hospitality. The *Grandiflora* magnolia, as it often does, provides the perfect backdrop and was chosen to represent next year’s tours. Look closely and you will notice several spectacular ivory blossoms unfurling in the background.



2023 DEADLINE APPROACHING

Photographs to be considered for the 2023 *Guidebook*, poster and brochures are due January 20, 2022, to Karen Ellsworth, director of HGW, at Karen@VAGardenWeek.org. For complete information regarding the *Guidebook* cover selection process, visit the GCV member website in the Historic Garden Week Resources folder. GCVirginia.org



the best of the

BOARD OF GOVERNORS 102ND MEETING

For the first time in two years, the leadership of the Garden Club of Virginia gathered together for the 102nd Board of Governors meeting and events. Hosted by Lynchburg's Hillside Garden Club, the meeting—"A Cultural Reflowering: Historic Downtown Lynchburg"—included excursions that showcased the club's community projects and outreach programs, creative floral designs, club horticulture exhibits, and a full two-day business meeting agenda. In addition, GCV artists and photographers were featured in a juried show at the Academy Center of the Arts.

Lots of GCV ground was covered during this important event. The Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement was presented to Kim Nash, the Commonwealth Award was presented to Harborfront Garden Club and The Brunswick Garden Club, and Peggy Cornett was announced as the newest GCV honorary member. The recipients of the Conservation Educator Award were announced along with the Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award for Conservation. Emily Riffe, the 2020-2021 Conservation and Environmental Studies Fellow and PhD candidate at Virginia Commonwealth University, presented her findings on *Native and Invasive Dune Grasses*:

ART SHOW WINNERS

Congratulations to Rochelle Good, The Princess Anne Garden Club, and Sandy Geiger, The Garden Club of Gloucester, for their first-place wins, in art and photography respectively, at the juried art show held at the Academy Center of the Arts in Lynchburg and showcased during the GCV's Board of Governors meeting.



Importance of Belowground Traits and Biotic Interaction at the Back Bay Wildlife Refuge in Virginia Beach. Stay tuned for more information on Emily's research in a future Journal issue.

The Garden Club of Virginia's presentation of the decade-long landscape restoration and carriage turnaround at Poplar Forest took place following the adjournment of the Board of Governors meeting. Read the accompanying articles in this edition of the *Journal* for more details on the people and places behind these important milestones and awards.



All Board of Governors meeting photos by Edie Hessberg

HGC members at the dedication of the Hillside Garden Club Memorial Garden at Lynchburg's Old City Cemetery in 2017. Photo by Ted Delaney



HILLSIDE GARDEN CLUB:

A RICH HISTORY OF STEWARDSHIP AND COLLABORATION

By Leigh Barth, Hillside Garden Club

Hillside Garden Club has deep roots in Lynchburg with a legacy that reaches far beyond the city limits. What began rather innocently in the early 1930s—two young friends and neighbors on Woolridge Place who bonded over gardening—has evolved into one of the state's most active garden clubs, whose members continue to work tirelessly to advance its mission: "to stimulate an interest in gardening, to aid in the protection of nature, plants and birds, and to encourage planting."

By 1935, this garden-focused group had grown from two friends to 25 members. By its second meeting, a bona fide club emerged; it became

Hillside Garden Club, named for the seven hills of Lynchburg. Nearly two decades later, in 1953, Hillside became a member of the Garden Club of Virginia and soon joined forces with the Lynchburg Garden Club to collaborate during Historic Garden Week.

Hillside is the only GCV club to have received four Common Wealth Awards. Two of these, in 1985 and 2009, supported the revitalization of the grounds and garden of distinguished Harlem Renaissance poet Anne Spencer. Hillside has been at the forefront to elevate this significant Lynchburg landmark to a national stage. The club's most recent major project at



HGC member Janie Vaughan at the club's 80th anniversary in 2015. Photo by Bill Booz

the site—the restoration of the grape arbor and wisteria pergola, now painted in Anne Spencer's original robin's egg blue—was completed in 2011.

A third Common Wealth Award, in 1996, served to further illustrate the club's community commitment. The award facilitated building a gatehouse and an expanded entrance at the Old City Cemetery, one of Lynchburg's most revered and historic

sites. Hillside received its fourth GCV Common Wealth Award in 2016 to create a tree garden at the city's restored Academy Center of the Arts building in downtown Lynchburg. The GCV's mission of conservation, beautification, horticulture, preservation and education are all part of this exciting plan.

In 2019, Hillside Garden Club joined forces with the Lynchburg Garden Club to form Blue Ridge Conservation. The organization's first project was a collaboration with the city of

Lynchburg to achieve Bee City USA designation, an initiative of the Xerces Society. The collaboration has led to projects that enhance biodiversity, reduce the use of neonicotinoids, and increase of the use of native plantings in parks, on private land and along roadsides. Blue Ridge Conservation is the 2021 GCV Bessie Bocock Carter Award recipient.

A rich history encompassing eight-plus decades of club contributions at the local and

state level is Hillside Garden Club's remarkable legacy. And a culture of fellowship among its members defines its ethos, as much as its stated mission of conservation, protection and gardening and its noteworthy accomplishments and accolades. Those relationships, which have continued to thrive and deepen, are nourished by a shared reverence for nature's bounty and the sense of stewardship, which forms the bedrock of Hillside Garden Club.



HGC members enjoying a lunch break under the pergola at the Anne Spencer Garden during a workday. Photo by Leigh Barth



POPLAR FOREST RESTORATION PRESENTATION

Mr. Jefferson addressing the audience at the Poplar Forest presentation

and Jeff O'Dell of Mountain Laurel Landscaping—all of whom contributed their time, talent and treasure at critical junctures of the restoration. Peggy Cornett, curator of plants at Monticello and recently named GCV honorary member, chose and cultivated the antique roses placed for the oval beds and Kay Moomaw, member of Hillside Garden Club, provides their ongoing care.

“It is a great privilege for the Garden Club of Virginia to have participated in the landscape restoration here at Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest,” said Restoration Committee Chairman Betsy Worthington during the presentation on the steps of Poplar Forest’s portico in October. “It is with tremendous pleasure, on behalf of the GCV and all those who work so hard to raise funds during Historic Garden Week, that I present the restoration of the landscape and carriage turnaround to Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest.” A stone marker commemorating this gift will be placed at the entrance of the carriage turnaround.

RIGHT: Guests seated behind the oval rose beds in the carriage turnaround at the Poplar Forest presentation. *All photos by Edie Hessberg unless otherwise noted*



Thomas Jefferson, Peggy Cornett and Will Rieley on the portico of Poplar Forest.



The Garden Club of Virginia makes possible historically accurate and often very complex restorations of some of the state’s most treasured public landscapes and gardens. In a special presentation following the 102nd GCV Board of Governors meeting in Lynchburg, GCV President Missy Buckingham and Restoration Committee Chairman Betsy Worthington presented the restoration of the landscape and carriage turnaround to Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest. The 10-year project encompasses the stone carriage turnaround, the installation of rows of paper mulberry trees to form the west wing of the house, ornamental shrubs and trees on either side of the north portico and oval flower beds planted with Jefferson-era

roses and bristly locust. The GCV Restoration Committee and Landscape Architect Will Rieley collaborated with Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest archaeologists to restore the landscape to its appearance at the time of Thomas Jefferson’s

retirement from the presidency. Extraordinary partnerships were formed throughout this decade-long project—among them with Charles Funk Masonry and his team of artisans; Bass Sod Farm; Lynchburg Ready Mix Concrete; Grelen Nursery



GCV President Missy Buckingham and Restoration Committee Chairman Betsy Worthington

The restored carriage turnaround at Poplar Forest. *Photo courtesy of Poplar Forest Foundation*



PEGGY CORNETT NAMED HONORARY GCV MEMBER

Peggy Cornett and the Garden Club of Virginia go hand in hand. A well-respected plantswoman and historian, she is the GCV's newest honorary member, an invitation she accepted at the Board of Governors meeting in Lynchburg in October.

Peggy hails from Southern Pines, North Carolina, and grew up with her hands in the earth. Her mother followed the *Farmer's Almanac*—she planted by the moon, tenderly nursed the soil, assiduously collected seeds and faithfully sowed rows of vegetable seeds like collard greens and cabbage. At 13, the trajectory of Peggy's life was unwittingly launched, when her mother shared with her pole bean seeds that had been carefully handed down through multiple generations of her father's family in Hazard, Kentucky. That seemingly simple gesture signified the passing of knowledge and heritage, and even as a young teenager, Peggy sensed its importance.

After earning degrees in botany and English from the University of North Carolina, Peggy entered the graduate program in public horticulture at Longwood Gardens. She found herself incorporating history into what she studied—the landscapes of historic properties and plants used in those landscapes; she developed a particular fondness for 19th-century seed catalogs, books and periodicals. *Dumbarton Oaks* published her thesis on the history of annual flowers in America, which confirmed what she felt she was evolving into—a hands-on gardener and garden historian.

In 1983 Peggy was tapped by Peter Hatch, longtime director of gardens

and grounds at Monticello, to become his assistant director. Since then, for the past four decades, she has worked in the gardens there as a member of the horticultural staff. She currently serves as curator of plants on the 2,500-acre site, with up to 10 acres of intensely cultivated flowers, fruits and vegetables in any given year; her work includes public education through workshops and lectures, nature walks, staff training, plant record keeping and research. Additionally, she coordinates Monticello's public garden education programs, including the annual Historic Landscape Institute in conjunction with the University of Virginia, and she serves on the planning and program committee for the Heritage Harvest Festival, a live and virtual series of food, farm and gardening classes and conversations.

Peggy is a longtime friend to garden clubs. She lectures on garden history and participates in webinars through professional organizations, botanic gardens and historic sites across the country. She has been a board member of the Southern Garden History Society, where she

also served as the editor of its scholarly journal, *Magnolia*, and is a recipient of its Flora Ann Bynum Medal for exemplary service in the field of garden history, the society's highest honor. In 2016, she received The Garden Club of America's Zone VII Horticulture Commendation for her expertise, her generosity in sharing that knowledge and her dedication to preserving Thomas Jefferson's botanical legacy. In addition, she is included in Jennifer Jewell's 2020 book, *The Earth in Her Hands*, which profiles 75 extraordinary women working in the world of plants.

Peggy joins an impressive roster of GCV honorary members, including Calder Loth, Peter Hatch, Nancy Ross Hugo, Dean Norton, Frank Robinson and Will Rieley. Honorary members are men and women of distinction with established reputations in fields that complement the mission of the Garden Club of Virginia.

Peggy Cornett in the garden at Monticello. Photo courtesy of Monticello Foundation



GCV President Missy Buckingham pictured here with the GCV's newest honorary member Peggy Cornett. Photo by Edie Hessberg

snips

NEWS FROM CLUBS & COMMITTEES

GCV DISTRICT 6

The Princess Anne Garden Club

VIRGINIA BEACH



On a glorious October day at First Landing State Park, The Princess Anne Garden Club hosted its 10th annual Party in the Park. The residents of Virginia Beach were anxious to experience the warm hospitality of the PAGC in their yearly fundraiser. Tables were decorated in fall colors with pumpkins and gourds to add to the festivities. A silent auction and a hearty fall lunch included pulled pork sandwiches, plenty of beer and wine; entertainment provided by The Intangible Cats, a local band, provided the perfect combination for a fall fund- and fun-raising festival.

More than 400 guests enjoyed themselves, all for the benefit of The Friends Of First Landing State Park and other local environmental projects in the area, the beneficiaries of this singular event. Many thanks to all of our volunteers who made this event such a success.

—Katie Hand



PAGC's Party in the Park Co-chairmen Kirsten Miller and Rochelle Good. Photo courtesy of Katie Hand

Members of The Garden Club of Danville ready for work at the entrance to The Old Grove Street Cemetery. Photo courtesy of Mike Younger



AGC's Flower Flash at Ashland's new Town Hall. Photo courtesy of Sharon Stiles

GCV DISTRICT 1

The Ashland Garden Club

ASHLAND

The flowers used in arrangements at the GCV's Annual Meeting, held in May at Meadow Event Park in Doswell and hosted by The Ashland Garden Club, brought cheer to the newly built Town Hall when they were repurposed for a Flower Flash, the club's gift to the town. The creative and festive installation was bursting with color from numerous buckets full of flowers and greenery. It was a beautiful sight and a wonderful photo opportunity.

—Sharon Stiles

GCV DISTRICT 4

The Garden Club of Danville

DANVILLE

The Garden Club of Danville supports many projects throughout the city of Danville. The most interesting is The Old Grove Street Cemetery. In the mid-1930s the club "adopted" the neglected cemetery which had closed in the 1920s. The club has since focused on renewing its grounds and monuments, which were in very sad shape. In 1939, members defined the cemetery's perimeter permanently with a beautiful granite wall and sponsored the first-ever

book documenting its history. Published in 1939, *History of the Grove Street Cemetery* was written by member Mary Mackenzie Mack. The club has spent countless hours preserving this beautiful Danville landmark and annoying the powers that be in Danville to maintain and respect the cemetery's history. Our current Cemetery Chairman Sandra March, along with her friend Clara Fountain, have recently written another book about the cemetery. They included photographs of every tombstone and monument they could still find and created maps of family plots showing how to locate the graves. They also researched and compiled brief biographies of every burial they could identify and included an extensive index of names. It is a lovely cemetery, and our hardworking members who care for it with such passion are honored to maintain this historic attraction for the benefit of visitors and Danville residents.

—Miki Younger



PHOTOGRAPHY SHOWS: SELECTED CLASSES EXPLAINED

There are three significant opportunities to enter a GCV photography show in the upcoming year—Daffodil Day in March, Lilies in Bloom in June and Symposium 2022 in September. Regardless of your level of experience and expertise—whether a newbie or accomplished shutterbug—consider flexing your photography prowess and, to quote the ubiquitous tagline, just do it.

Entering a photography show doesn't have to be a daunting prospect. The opportunity isn't reserved exclusively for those with lots of proficiency under their belts. However, it's essential to read a schedule thoroughly to make the most of the opportunity. Make sure to adhere to timelines, guidelines and technical instruction for successful submissions. Additionally, paying attention to the description of the classes is equally important

Many classes in a photography show revolve around common themes, but it is the interpretation by the photography show's organizers that makes each show unique. There is often some confusion as to what, exactly, some classes really mean.

ABOVE: *Still life with daffodils* by Tori Macmillan, Albemarle Garden Club

RIGHT: *Spiral staircase in black and white* by Dana Parker, The Virginia Beach Garden Club



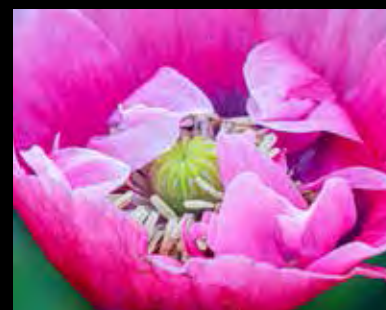
A PRIMER ON THREE OF THE MORE CHALLENGING CLASSES FOLLOWS:

BLACK AND WHITE V. MONOCHROMATIC: While standard color photography displays colors from across the spectrum, monochrome takes a single color and uses a range of tones and shades in that color. Sepia is an example of monochromatic images, but other colors can also be used, such as black and white. The monochromatic technique is not appropriate for every image but it can convey creativity, drama, and a sense of timelessness.

STILL LIFE: This genre of photography depicts inanimate objects—usually a small group—artistically arranged. The schedule dictates what and how the items are to be used, while still leaving plenty of room for imagination. When composing a still life, consider the objects, different ways to arrange them, as well as



Monochrome landscape by Dana Parker, The Virginia Beach Garden Club



TOP: *Close-up of poppy* by Susan Lendermon, The Augusta Garden Club

BOTTOM: *Macro image of skipper butterfly on a zinnia* by Edie Hessberg, Winchester-Clarke Garden Club

lighting and mood. Choose objects that work well together and promote the theme of the class. Backgrounds should be kept neutral to allow the still life composition to be the focal point of the image.

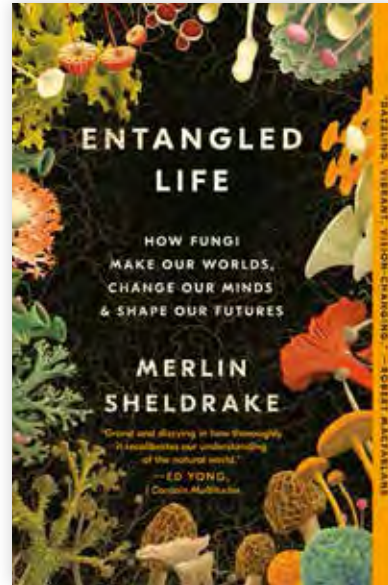
MACRO V. CLOSE-UP: In close-up photography, images are taken with the camera as close to the subject as possible until the lens can no longer focus. It can be done with virtually any camera and lens or cellphone and often results in stunning and highly detailed images. Macro photography gets closer still. While some cell phone and camera apps claim to have macro capability, unless there is a dedicated macro lens involved, the image will just be a digitized enlargement of the

image. True macro lenses produce images taken at a 1:1 ratio. This means the image on the camera's sensor is at least equal to the size of the object in real life, but it can be up to ten times larger at a 10:1 ratio. Some macro lenses have a long focal distance which allows the photographer to stand back from the object; this is especially helpful when photographing animals or insects. To encourage wider participation among GCV members, macro and close-up classes are often combined, and both techniques may be accepted into one class.

—Edie Hessberg, GCV Photography Committee Chairman, Winchester-Clarke Garden Club



Michael Pollan has said Merlin Sheldrake, the young biologist from Cambridge, is a beautiful writer with the imagination of a poet. Sheldrake's book, *Entangled Life*, on the complex world of fungi, has been called mind-bending and magical. Join him on this eye-opening tour of these amazing and complicated life forms as you settle in for a long winter's night. We hope the following review whets your whistle.



Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Futures

MERLIN SHELDRAKE

Entangled Life is the first book for Merlin Sheldrake, a young, Cambridge-educated biologist and tropical ecologist. His book is an ardent, energetic exploration of the world of fungi, most of which is hidden from view beneath the soil. While mushrooms, the fruiting bodies that emerge above ground are just the tips of much larger branching structures, underground fungal networks that lace through the soil wrap around roots of plants and trees and create a mycelial mat. Roots merge with fungi to form a mycorrhiza. The Greek word for fungus is *mykos* and root is *riza*. More than 90 percent of plants depend on mycorrhizal fungi to supply both water and minerals like nitrogen and phosphorous. The fungi, in turn, are supplied with carbon by the plants.

This interspecies collaboration dates back to the beginning of plant life on earth. It was only by partnering with fungi that plants, in the form of algae, were able to move from water to land until they could develop their own root systems. But the hyphae (the tubular structures of mycelium) are not merely a passive underground plumbing system. Fungi provide communication channels with other organisms, conveying information as well as nutrients. Messages about food sources and injury can be sent to different parts of the mycelial network—the “wood wide web.”

Entangled Life is filled with wonders, for fungal behavior is mysterious. Sheldrake describes how some fungi demonstrate problem-solving behaviors and seem to “make decisions” without a brain. Slime molds, for instance, can find the shortest route to the exit through a maze model of an IKEA store. Mycelia also appear to run nutritional

economies, acting as decision-makers who barter and trade their mineral supply for returns of carbon at shifting rates. And even physically, fungi can perform astonishing feats. The shaggy ink cap mushroom can push through asphalt and concrete and heave paving stones.

Perhaps Sheldrake’s most mind-blowing and actually horrifying example of strange fungal behavior is that of the “zombie fungi.” *Ophiocordyceps unilateralis* infects and hijacks the bodies of carpenter ants. Having penetrated the body of the ant, the fungus overrides its instinctual fear of heights and incites it to climb up plants and bite into a vein on the underside of a leaf in a “death grip.” Once the ant has clamped on, mycelium grows from its feet and adheres it to the plant. At this point, as much as 40 percent of the ant’s biomass is fungus. The fungus then digests the body and pushes a spore-laden shaft from the head, snowing spores onto ants below.

Though firmly grounded in empirical evidence, Sheldrake does not confine

himself to dry data. He enlivens his material with vivid accounts of his own experiences, such as trekking with truffle hunters or living in the jungles of Panama studying *Voyria*, a small white plant unable to photosynthesize. He describes his experience taking fungal-derivative LSD to gain unsuspected insights into his fungal research. He quirkily weaves in quotations from Prince, Tom Waits, Claude Levi-Strauss, Helene Cixous and Adrienne Rich that are somehow apropos. Sheldrake’s prose is clear and personable, but he also makes mesmerizing metaphorical departures as in this section on lichens:

“Some look like stains, others like small shrubs, others like antlers. Some leather and droop like bat wings, others, as the poet Brenda Hillman writes, are ‘hung in hashtags’...Fruticose lichens drape and tuft; crustose and squamulose lichens creep and seep; foliose lichens layer and flake.”

Sheldrake’s lyrical use of language, his gift for the poetic, also makes *Entangled Life* a pleasure to read. This chapter is evocatively titled “The Intimacy of Strangers.”

Lichen, the author explains, was thought to be the prime example of the symbiotic convergence of two different species—a fungus and an alga.

In a cooperative partnership, the algal component provides energy by turning sunlight and carbon dioxide into sugars, while the fungal mines, dissolves and digests rock, leaching its minerals. More recent examination of lichen has revealed that they are not just dual organisms but more like mini-ecosystems, microbiomes composed of several types of fungus, as well as bacteria.

Sheldrake’s book continually stretches the reader’s mind, turns the lens, opens it to wider perspectives. He humbly acknowledges the indeterminacy of current scientific knowledge about fungi, a largely neglected field. The possibilities for future beneficial use of fungi, however, seem endless. In the field of mycoremediation, they have been shown to harness radiation and to break down crude oil, pesticide residue, cigarette butts and diapers. Fungi have been used medicinally for centuries and are noted for their antibacterial and antiviral compounds. Therapeutic use of psilocybin has been proven to lift severe anxiety and depression. Industries are experimenting with mycelium-based packaging, building materials and textiles.

Perhaps most promising is what kind of information this entangled web of fungal



threads might be able to provide us about the state of our own ecosystem. This is particularly urgent in light of climate crisis. Relationships of interdependence support and sustain us. Mycelium, as Sheldrake reminds us, are “the ecological connective tissue, the living seam by which much of the world is stitched into relation.”

Random House, 2020 • 352 pp.

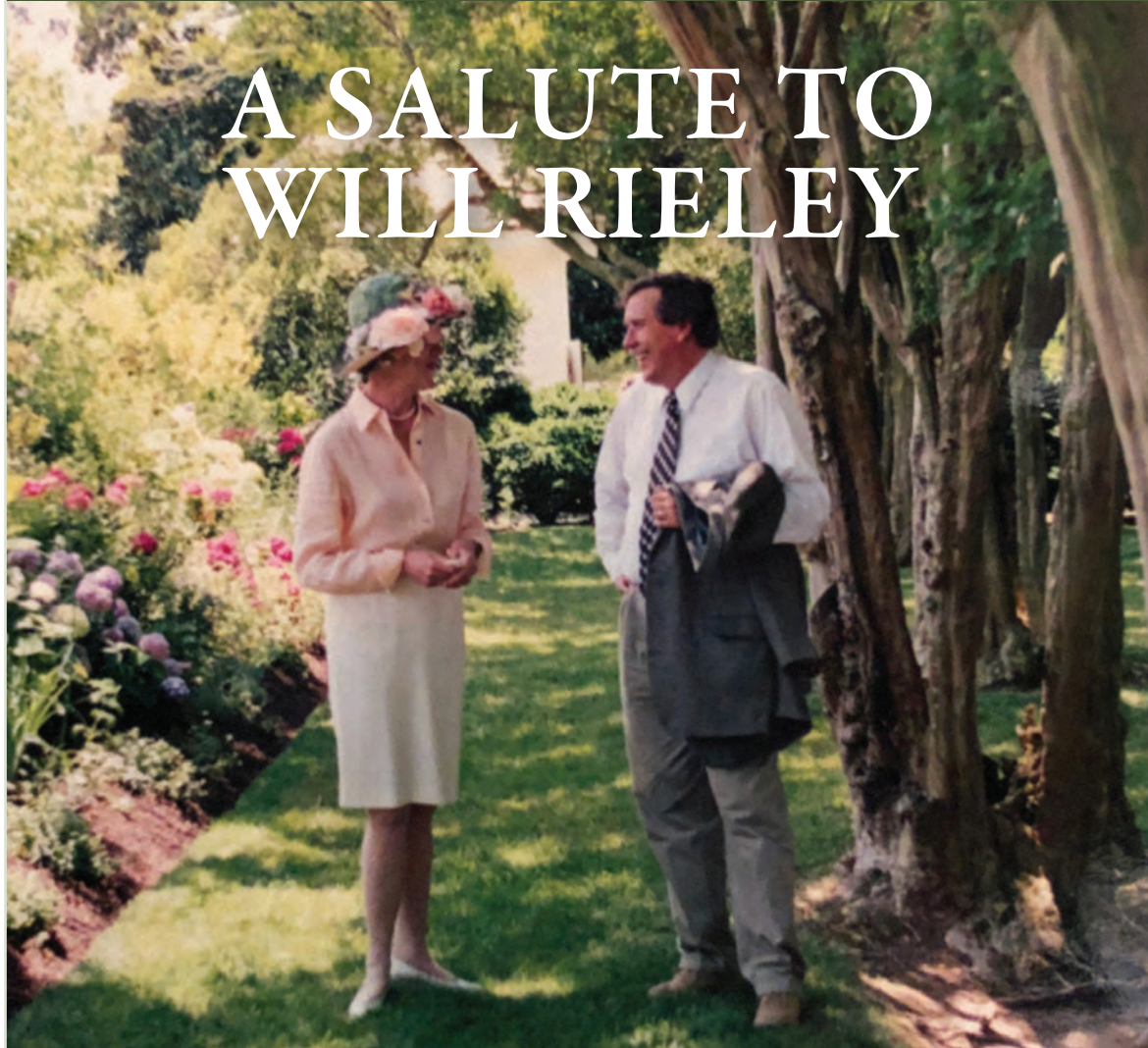
—by Louise Gilbert Freeman, Three Chopt Garden Club

Photo of Merlin Sheldrake courtesy of the author. All fungi photos from Pixabay.



The Garden Club of Alexandria joins the Garden Club of Virginia in

A SALUTE TO WILL RIELEY



- 🌿 Landscape Architect, Scholar, Teacher, Mentor, Friend
- 🌿 23 years of dedicated service as Garden Club of Virginia Landscape Architect
- 🌿 Collaborated with GCV on more than 40 projects, including Monticello, Mount Vernon, Poplar Forest, Virginia Executive Mansion, Stratford Hall, Belmont, the Reveley Garden at William & Mary and Green Spring Gardens
- 🌿 Professor of Landscape Architecture, University of Virginia
- 🌿 GCV award for Historic Preservation
- 🌿 The Rieley Fellowship established to promote research & documentation of historic Virginia gardens
- 🌿 Honorary member of the Garden Club of Virginia



12 East Franklin Street | Richmond, Virginia 23219
GCVirginia.org

2022 GCV CALENDAR

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK THE GCV CALENDAR ONLINE FOR CURRENT INFORMATION AND UPDATES.

SAVE THE DATES



ALL DATES
2022

- March 1** | Deadline for Common Wealth Award, de Lacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation and Horticulture Award of Merit nominations
- March 29** | Daffodil Day, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, *Richmond*
- April 4** | Photography Workshop, Lightroom Classics, K-VH, *Richmond*
- April 5** | Poe Museum Presentation, *Richmond*
- April 11** | Photography Workshop, Lightroom Classics, K-VH, *Richmond*
- April 22** | Stratford Hall Presentation, *Stratford*
- April 23-30** | Historic Garden Week
- May 10-11** | GCV Annual Meeting, *Richmond*
- May 12** | Paula Pryke Floral Demonstration: *Virginia Museum of History & Culture, Richmond*
- May 17** | Reveley Garden Presentation at William & Mary, *Williamsburg*
- May 18-19** | Horticulture Field Day, *Alexandria*
- June 14** | Lilies in Bloom, *Fredericksburg*
- Sept 20-21** | GCV Symposium, Science Museum of Virginia, *Richmond*
- Oct 18-20** | GCV Board of Governors Meeting, *Roanoke*

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