

THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

JOURNAL



Fall 2020 | Volume LXV | No. 3



THE CENTENNIAL ISSUE

Centennial Celebration | Paula Pryke | Essentials & Snips

Paula Pryke 2020

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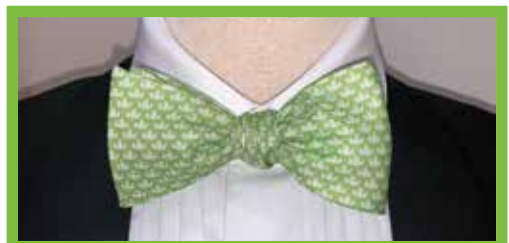
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THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA JOURNAL



Fall 2020 | Volume LXV | No.3

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.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE & DEADLINES

Issue	Publication Date	Submission Deadline
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Spring	April	February 1
Summer	July	May 1
Fall	October	August 1

ADVERTISING

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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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Paula Pryke and her arrangement.
Photos courtesy of Paula Pryke

*A Landscape Saved, The Garden Club of
Virginia at 100* Exhibition Catalog



16

Contents

ESSENTIALS

- 4 On the Cover: Artist Spotlight
- 5 President's Letter
- 7 Editor's Letter
- 8 From 12 East Franklin Street

FEATURES

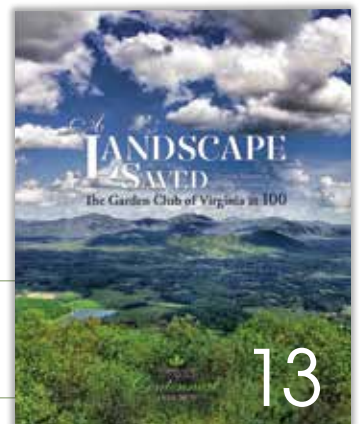
- 10 *A Landscape Saved: The Garden Club of Virginia at 100 ...* including the Centennial Exhibition at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, the Catalog, Centennial Reflections, Time Capsule, Joanna Catron, Jeanette Cadwallender and an Exhibition Diary
- 16 The Founders & Juanita Patterson
- 18 Flower Power & Paula Pryke

SNIPS

- 25 Club News
- 26 Committee News

END NOTES

- 32 Ex Libris
- 33 Calendar



13

THE CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION & CATALOG
Don't miss it! Coverage starts on page 10.

ON THE COVER: ARTIST SPOTLIGHT
TENLEY BEAZLEY

In honor of the Garden Club of Virginia's Centennial, Tenley Beazley turns her deft eye to our state tree, the native dogwood *Cornus florida*, dressed in seasonal colors against a brilliant October sky. This autumn story told in mixed media includes a visitor, our state butterfly, the native eastern tiger swallowtail. Here, Tenley draws our attention to details often overlooked, such as this rare dark form of the female *Papilio glaucus* Linnaeus.

An ardent conservationist, gardener and artist devoted to revealing the "details of nature that are so often missed," Tenley invites the viewer to take a closer look and move beyond the surface of her multilayered works.

Many have accepted that invitation, through private collections, commissions and shows in Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlottesville, and Richmond, including a solo show at Quirk Gallery in Richmond with proceeds benefiting the GCV Conservation Fund.

Tenley studied art history and studio art at Denison University and at Richmond College (London, England), and earned a master's degree in broadcast journalism from Northwest University. Years later, back in Virginia, she took a class in botanical painting at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden "on a whim." Her love of art and nature came together, and she continues to challenge herself and viewers to engage with the natural world.



A Richmond native and wife of Wyatt Beazley IV, she's a mother of three, an active volunteer in the community and a member of The James River Garden Club, where she co-chairs the conservation committee.

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

Dogwood - Fall, mixed media on paper,
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THE CHALLENGE TO MOVE FORWARD



The Garden Club of Virginia Centennial has provided our membership, friends and the greater public the opportunity to recall the history of our organization's founding, purpose, goals, mission, accomplishments and contributions over the past 100 years. It has been a time of reflection, recollection, appreciation and pride. It has, importantly, also been a time of great camaraderie. Members are reminded of the impact of their work for the betterment of their communities and the

commonwealth from efforts in conservation, beautification, restoration and more. Although our May 2020 Founders Day plans were canceled by the Covid pandemic, we can look forward to a Centennial Series of events that will allow us to continue with our celebration.

While commemorating the past, the challenge we face is real: How will the Garden Club of Virginia move forward into the future? Resting on our laurels is not an option. We are only as strong as our collective selves. It will be the perseverance and optimism, creativity and flexibility of our members and leaders that will determine our future success. We must channel our energies to seek out ways to continue to make our work both meaningful and lasting. This will require insight, focus and solutions to take the Garden Club of Virginia to the next level of volunteerism. There must be a renewed effort to look, listen and learn from others to be able to keep up with these changing and challenging times.

Appreciating the strength and stronghold of a 100-year-old organization that has stood the test of time leaves no doubt that the leaders of tomorrow will face every challenge, overcome every obstacle and have the vision to move the Garden Club of Virginia into a successful second century.

With much love,

Missy Buckingham

Missy Buckingham
GCV President, 2020-22





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A NEW DAY

It's a new day for the Garden Club of Virginia *Journal*.

It's been redesigned and reimagined, inside and out, and we hope you like what you see. Befittingly, our inaugural issue is Centennial-centric, bringing you in words and pictures the GCV's 100th anniversary.

From "Essentials" up front to committee and club articles in our new "Snips" section, our content will enable you to remain connected to all things GCV. Our

features section is mission-focused: In this issue, we showcase the extraordinary Centennial exhibition at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, open to the public through November 1. And for floral design devotees, read "Flower Power." Paula Pryke's in-person Founders Day presentation may have been postponed, but that didn't deter us from sharing her signature style with her ever enthusiastic GCV fan base.

This year has been like no other. It's meant unprecedented challenges and, for many of us, navigating situations we couldn't have dreamed of a year ago. But we in the GCV are also fiercely resilient. We have held to our core tenets and soldiered on. For 100 years, our priorities—in spite of wars and pandemics—have remained the same. We advocate for what matters to us. We celebrate the beauty of our land, we conserve the gifts of nature, and we challenge future generations to build on that heritage.

While the GCV remains steadfast in its mission, it is embarking on its second century precisely because it has adapted. The *Journal*, with its rich and revered history, will continue to remain one of the organization's most important communication vehicles, but it too must strive for relevance in a constantly changing world. So in this year of exceptional challenges and change, we bring you a fresh take on an old standard. My editorial committee is top-notch, and GCV leadership is responsive and resourceful. I am enormously honored and humbled with this opportunity—to lead my hardworking team and to usher in the *Journal's* new chapter.

Madeline Mayhood

Madeline Mayhood
GCV Journal Editor
journal@gcvirginia.org



HGW in Virginia

News from Historic Garden Week

Historic Garden Week might be turning 88 this spring, but she's not afraid to try new things. If Oprah and Martha Stewart can do it, so can she. *Historic Garden Week—The Magazine* makes its debut in mid-November, taking the place of the state brochure, and sending a message to its fans. It's going to be different, but this popular springtime event is on a path forward.

With a distribution of 25,000 free copies to outlets throughout Virginia, all of which are traditional distribution sites for the beloved *Guidebook*, *The Magazine* has three objectives: to extend the

GCV's public outreach beyond its Centennial, to provide additional return-on-investment to 2020 and 2021 spring *Guidebook* advertisers and sponsors and, of course, to pay for itself.

Despite the very successful radio and social media campaign thanking our supporters during the eight days in April when tours would have taken place, we understand that it simply wasn't the same. We know that



ABOVE: *The Magazine* fall cover 2020

most advertisers in the *Guidebook* are extremely loyal, participating every year. Those supporters will receive visibility in two publications this year – *The Magazine* and the spring *Guidebook*—for the same price as one ad.

The HGW office has been especially busy working to design *The Magazine* to complement the *Guidebook*, which will continue to be a main source of logistical tour information and tantalizing tidbits about the private properties which are the mainstay of this statewide event.

Organized by geographic region, as opposed to alphabetically by tours, each region's section of *The Magazine* will feature a travel story. These expanded versions of suggested itineraries will utilize the information provided by each tour team, as well as feature stories highlighting and relating to the interesting work of the GCV. *Historic Garden Week—The Magazine* aims to tell a bigger story and share it with a larger audience.

—Karen Ellsworth, State Director, *Historic Garden Week* and Editor of the *Guidebook*



The Path Forward: Historic Garden Week Planned for April 17-24, 2021

Being proactive about the upcoming tours, the Historic Garden Week State Committee and its leadership continue to consider applicable best practices, input and advice from both national and state 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 GCV members, volunteers and tour attendees; follow local, state and federal guidelines and be fiscally conservative, safeguarding the long-term financial health of the Garden Club of Virginia. 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.

Two important dates shared with tour teams at Virtual Boot Camp at the end of June are helping guide decision making. The first involves tour LOGISTICS that directly impact what is shared in the spring *Guidebook*. For example, will tours offer refreshments? Once those recommendations are discussed and voted on, they will be communicated no later than December 15.

The second date involves 2021 touring PROTOCOL. For example, will guests and hostesses be required to wear masks? The HGW Committee will share applicable information with the 2021 tour teams, property owners, ticket buyers and other important stakeholders by February 24. The Spring HGW Region meetings taking place the week of March 8 will be an especially important time to address this aspect of tours and distribute materials in support of HGW 2021.



We hope that candid conversations, a thorough and methodical plan, and timely communication with all stakeholders ease any concerns around the upcoming Historic Garden Week tours.

—Tricia Garner, Historic Garden Week State Chairman, 2020-2022, The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club

Photos on both pages are courtesy of The Garden Club of Virginia

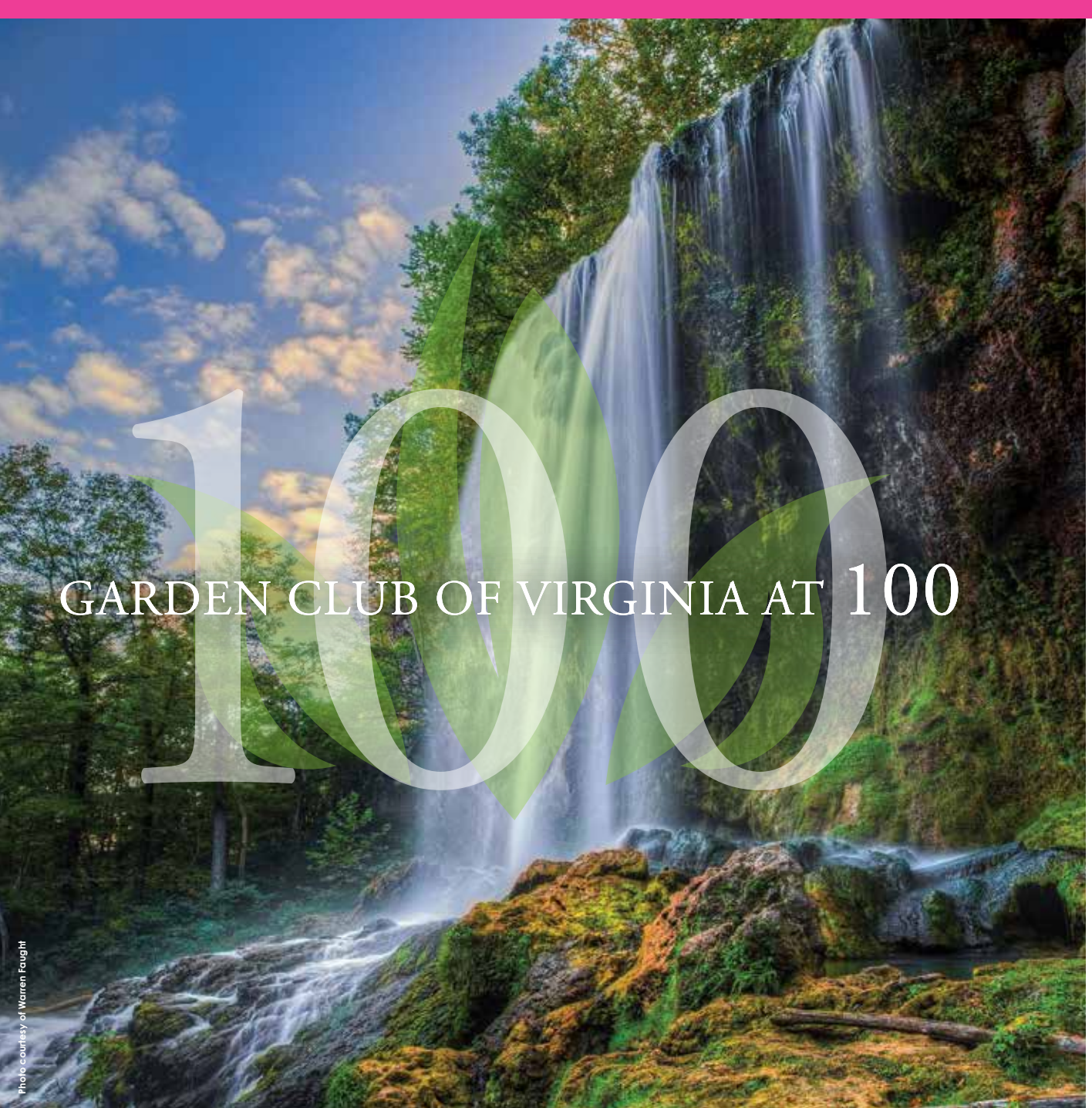


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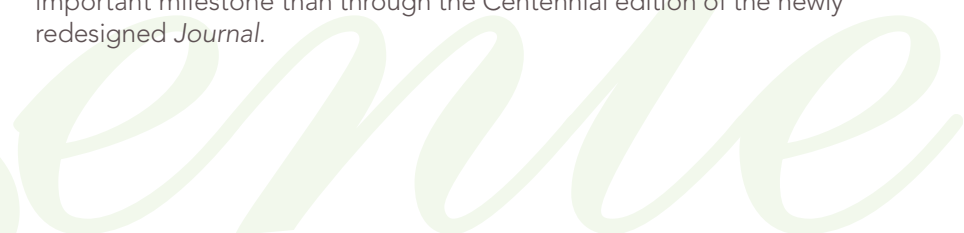
100

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA AT 100

A CENTENNIAL TO REMEMBER

This year—GCV’s Centennial—is a remarkable one. Committees and clubs planned a Centennial-themed year of statewide programs and events, all of which were to culminate in the much-anticipated Founders Day originally scheduled for May 2020. Although plans were years in the making, the pandemic thwarted our long-awaited celebrations. However, thanks to visionary leadership, showcasing our Centennial has been reimagined, and a series of events are planned for the future. What better way to highlight this important milestone than through the Centennial edition of the newly redesigned *Journal*.


Centennial
1920-2020
GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA AT 100





STRATFORD HALL



KER PLACE



BACON'S CASTLE



BURWELL-MORGAN MILL

We bring you coverage of the incredible GCV exhibition at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, *A Landscape Saved: The Garden Club of Virginia at 100*, which is open to the public until November 1. This extraordinary effort highlights the GCV's history and the tremendous scope of our many accomplishments. Profiles of some of the visionary behind-the-scenes key figures and a first-person exhibition diary will inspire club members to make their way to Richmond to witness this once-in-a-lifetime, comprehensive retrospective. Rest assured all social distancing protocols are being observed. As a tribute to our forebears, read about Juanita Patterson, the president of the James River Garden Club, who is credited with founding the Garden Club of Virginia a century ago. It is accompanied by a look at "The Founders"—the GCV's eight original clubs. And although the 2020 Founders Day demonstration has been postponed, Paula Pryke, legendary British floral designer, makes a big splash in "Flower Power."

So enjoy the pages that follow. Celebrate the GCV's Centennial and the "new" *Journal*. We hope you will feel increasingly proud to be a part of the Garden Club of Virginia.

—Missy Buckingham, GCV President



POCAHONTAS STATE PARK



KENT-VALENTINE HOUSE

From the restoration of the oldest English formal garden in North America at Bacon's Castle to recreating an early 18th-century garden at Stratford Hall, proceeds from Historic Garden Week fund a variety of projects across Virginia.

Photos on this page are courtesy of Roger Foley, Megan Carfioli, Ben Greenberg, Barbara Batchelder, Richard A. Koth, and Scenic Virginia.



A
**LANDSCAPE
 SAVED**
 The Garden Club of Virginia at 100

THE EXHIBITION

Illustrating the history of an organization that has spanned a century is no easy feat, especially when that organization is a voice for conservation and the environment, supports projects ranging from the eastern shores to the western mountains, restores landscapes at renowned historic properties and produces an annual event with a multimillion dollar impact across the state. As always, members of the Garden Club of Virginia rose to the task to commemorate the organization's centennial. Under the leadership of Jeanette Cadwallender (GCV president, 2014-2016), the idea of the exhibition and catalog was conceived and realized. With the direction of Joanna Catron of the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club, the subcommittee worked closely with the Virginia Museum of History & Culture's Senior Curator of Museum Collections Dr. William S. Rasmussen to create an extraordinary exhibition that captures the spirit and achievements of the GCV and its member clubs.

The exhibition and catalog celebrate the legacy of those visionary women who, in 1920, turned their energy and resources to the beautification,

preservation and conservation of the landscape and communities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Lavish photographs, colorful graphics, press clippings and historic documents tell the story of how the GCV grew from its founding by eight clubs to today's organization of 48 clubs and 3500 members. The organization's significant impact on the state is evident throughout the exhibition and catalog. Both illustrate the GCV's strong advocacy for conservation and the environment—from its early and ongoing support of Virginia state parks, to its restoration and preservation of landscapes at more than 50 historic properties from Historic Garden Week proceeds. The exhibition also features horticulture and flower shows, its early efforts to rid state roads of billboard blight, GCV's international outreach during and after World War II, its noted award and fellowship recipients and club projects throughout the commonwealth.

As in 1920, "It began with an invitation..." and you are invited to tour this well-curated exhibition and explore the beautiful

companion catalog to share in the joy and reflect on the accomplishments of the GCV over the past century. But the invitation does not stop there. The exhibition and catalog invite members of the GCV to continue this legacy of education, beautification, preservation and conservation in their own communities throughout the commonwealth. Or as Jeanette Cadwallender proclaims, "Celebrate the landscape of Virginia and the organization that has preserved it."

—Deneen Brannock, Augusta Garden Club

SEE THE EXHIBITION

A Landscape Saved: The Garden Club of Virginia at 100 Centennial Exhibition is on display at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture (VMHC) in Richmond through November 1. Advanced tickets required.

For more information on museum hours, purchasing tickets and exhibition details, visit the VMHC website at virginiahistory.org



Preserving Virginia's
 Wildflowers, Trees,
 and Shrubs

Juanita Patterson, first chair of the Conservation Committee, was dedicated to saving the state's natural flowers, trees, and shrubs. She orchestrated the display of thousands of posters across the state stating, "Save the Dogwood," "Save the Holly," and "Save the..."
FALL 2020. FEATURES
 garden club members and the highway department to plant dogwood trees in their communities and along state roadways.

Were it necessary for me to select one organization in Virginia that has made the most outstanding and valuable contribution to this state, it would be the Garden Club of Virginia. Governor Albertis S. Harrison





CATCHING UP WITH JEANETTE CADWALLENDER

THE CATALOG

This beautiful book is more than a catalog of the exhibition presented by the Garden Club of Virginia and the Virginia Museum of History & Culture. Lavishly illustrated by photographs, *A Landscape Saved: The Garden Club of Virginia at 100* tells the story of the Garden Club of Virginia from its founding to the present. Most importantly, it is an inspiration for the future. In 1920, resourceful women turned their energy and attention to the beautification, preservation and conservation of the Commonwealth of Virginia and founded the Garden Club of Virginia. This was the same year in which women obtained the right to vote. World War I had just ended and the flu pandemic had subsided.

The GCV's rich history is detailed—from its creation a century ago by eight clubs to its 48 member clubs today. The book describes the GCV as a strong voice for conservation and the environment and its commitment to historic landscape restoration. It helped found Virginia State Parks and as a Centennial project has given \$500,000 to state parks. Member club projects are showcased in communities throughout the state, all of which reflect the mission of the GCV.

The book highlights the many facets of the organization. It features Historic Garden Week and its profound impact on the state's economy since its inception. Years of GCV work in conservation, horticulture, education and flower arranging are also featured. The GCV's responsiveness to crisis in World War II is remembered.

Each generation will continue to face different challenges, but rest assured the GCV will be up to the task. Jamie Bosket, President and CEO of the VMHC, describes the GCV "as a group that has bettered life in Virginia for its residents and all who journey to and through this exceptionally historic place." Jean Gilpin, GCV President (2018-2020) says "GCV is strong, relevant and determined to impart our knowledge and passion to the next generation." This book and the exhibition at VMHC will help do that. Visit the exhibition; read this book; share it with your friends and community leaders so that they will see and share our commitment to Virginia.

—Anne Geddy Cross, *The Ashland Garden Club*

Jeanette Cadwallender served as the 48th president of the Garden Club of Virginia (2014-2016) and is a

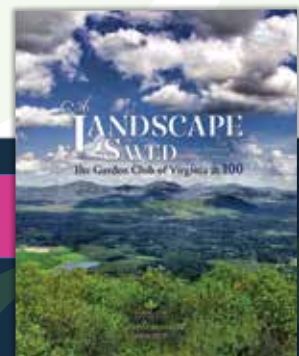


member of the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club. Over the past five years, she led the team that wrote, designed and published the catalog that showcases the exhibition, *A Landscape Saved: The Garden Club of Virginia at 100*. "The catalog is a great piece that serves as a stand-alone document," says Jeanette. "It is not a typical catalog. It's beautifully designed and the color palette was also used throughout the exhibition." Jeanette says the catalog's real strength is that it highlights the work the public sees—the projects of the GCV and of the individual clubs. The catalog, like the exhibition, was a remarkable collaboration of GCV members and the curatorial staff at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture. "That combination allowed everyone to see the valuable work of the GCV?"

—Katherine Knopf, *Roanoke Valley Garden Club*

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Books are \$20 each plus shipping. Order at <https://shop.gcvirginia.org>. Discounts are available for 10 or more copies. Contact quanm@gcvirginia.org or call (804) 643-4137 for details.



CURATING THE EXHIBITION: JOANNA CATRON

For over five years Joanna Catron worked closely with a team of GCV members and the curatorial staff at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture to produce our Centennial exhibition, *A Landscape Saved: The Garden Club of Virginia at 100*. She was a natural choice to represent the GCV in this effort: Joanna is not only a member of the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club, but she is also the assistant director and curator at Belmont, the country home and studio near Fredericksburg of prominent American impressionist artist Gari Melchers (1860-1932). Joanna recently spoke with *Journal* committee member Katherine Knopf (Roanoke Valley Garden Club) about her experience helping bring the Centennial exhibition to life.

Journal: What criteria did you use to curate the memorabilia?

JC: Before we met with William Rasmussen, Senior Curator at VMHC, I had to decide how to help him understand the Garden Club of Virginia and our mission. In reflecting on the GCV's lasting work and significant impact throughout the state, we decided that consistent and ongoing themes should be forefront in laying out the exhibition. The themes we targeted came easily and echo the same core values that the GCV prioritized at its inception: conservation, beautification, restoration and horticulture.

Journal: What was your favorite part of curating the exhibition?

JC: The team that worked on this project! They were all

incredible to work with. It was the collaboration of committed GCV members that made this project successful. From artifacts and documents provided from archives and club members, the staff at VMHC seamlessly organized a beautiful exhibition.

Journal: What particular item stood out as remarkable?

JC: As a newer member of the Garden Club of Virginia, I knew what our local club had accomplished, but I didn't know much about the statewide contributions of the GCV. As I started researching, I quickly realized that we needed to impart what the organization has done to conserve, restore and preserve landmarks and gardens around the state.

Journal: How do you tell a story of 100 years of work through artifacts?

JC: Archives at the GCV headquarters, the Kent-Valentine House, were invaluable. The staff assisted by providing creative ideas. The books and journals stored there reveal stories of strong-minded women who used their influence to impart change. From billboard legislation to saving Goshen Pass, the GCV's efforts preserved significant landscapes. We are not a self-serving organization. We preserve iconic gardens at the University of Virginia and Monticello, as well as smaller ones such as the historic Anne Spencer Garden in Lynchburg that was a salon for Harlem Renaissance poets. Through the items chosen, we demonstrate how local garden clubs improve



Pavilion Gardens at the University of Virginia

their communities and tell the bigger story of how they and the GCV contribute tirelessly to the people of Virginia through these permanent efforts.

THE EXHIBITION TEAM

William Rasmussen,
VMHC Lora M. Robins Senior
Curator of Museum Collections

Bryan Condra,
VMHC Exhibition Designer

Andrew Talkov,
VMHC Senior Director of
Curatorial Affairs

Veronica Blanco,
VMHC Exhibition Technician

Anne Cross,
The Ashland Garden Club

Buffy Bickford,
The Ashland Garden Club

Jeanette Cadwallender,
The Rappahannock Valley
Garden Club

Janet Rosser,
The Ashland Garden Club

Lynn McCashin,
GCV Executive Director

Karen Ellsworth,
State Director, Historic Garden
Week & Editor of the *Guidebook*

Ann Heller,
GCV Communications
Coordinator



A Centennial Exhibition Diary

On a meltingly hot July day, I decided to visit the Virginia Museum of History & Culture to see the GCV Centennial exhibition, *A Landscape Saved: The Garden Club of Virginia at 100*. It turned out to be an excellent decision, in spite of the pandemic, for there were few people in the museum that day and no worries about being too close to one another.

As a member of the GCV for over 35 years, I thought I knew the GCV story fairly well. But as I wandered through the exhibition and read about the accomplishments over the decades, I found myself in awe of what earlier generations achieved—often through sheer determination.

The Centennial exhibition provides an opportunity to explore the impact of the GCV in the fields of restoration, conservation, horticulture and education. The story is rendered beautifully in words and pictures. Tackling “billboard blight” rightfully remains a signature GCV accomplishment and was brought to life poignantly with old photos of junky roadsides

juxtaposed with an image of a billboard-free stretch of highway. Think of taking trips in the 1950s and 60s along two-lane highways, then crowded with gas station signs and billboards every half-mile touting everything from Brylcreem to Bon Ami. Imagine our highways had the GCV not supported billboard regulation. Thanks to these fierce advocates, Virginia is known as one of the country’s most scenic states.

The exhibition featured another story that resonated: the successful effort to prevent two massive dams from being built—one on the Maury River near Goshen Pass and the other on the Rappahannock River above Fredericksburg. The stories of the GCV members organizing to prevent these dams from being built not only had the desired outcome, but also educated the public about the importance of preserving natural habitats along Virginia waterways.

I was so impressed with the exhibition that I recommend it to all members, and especially to our newest members. Seasoned members will be proud of their beloved GCV, and new members will learn about the vital work the GCV has played in preserving and protecting our commonwealth for future generations.

—Catherine Whitham,
Three Chopt Garden Club



CENTENNIAL TIME [CAPSULE]



This lovely 19th-century French Provincial pine sideboard, a gift to the GCV from the late Teen Martin (The Garden Club of Gloucester and GCV president, 1962-1964) can be found on the third floor of the Kent-Valentine House. Its new role will be as the official keeper of special club messages and mementos for the next 50 years. Inside a cache of items collected from all 48 member clubs and standing committees, comprising the GCV Centennial Time Capsule, will be revealed in 2070. For former GCV Historian Bettie Guthrie (Petersburg Garden Club), who chaired the Time Capsule Subcommittee, the time capsule “represents the voices of member clubs and their message to help future members carry on the GCV legacy.” Read more about the items inside—from CDs to oyster shells, DVDs and pewter pitchers—along with details on how this unique project unfolded in the winter issue of the *Journal*. Additionally, an official time capsule dedication is planned. Watch the GCV website for more information.

—Deneen Brannock, The Augusta Garden Club



THE FOUNDERS

Eight garden clubs gathered in 1920 to establish the Garden Club of Virginia, the oldest of which was The Warrenton Garden Club. When it was established in 1911, many a lady arrived at the meetings in a horse and buggy; today an SUV is more likely to be the mode of transportation. Four more clubs appeared before World War I: Albemarle Garden Club in Charlottesville, The Garden Club of Norfolk, The James River Garden Club in Richmond and Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club. In addition to sharing their love of and knowledge about flowers, they all recognized the importance of community service, whether it be roadside beautification or the restoration of historic gardens. The persuasive powers of these women were recognized early when, in 1918, The Garden Club of Norfolk lobbied the Virginia General Assembly to adopt the dogwood as the state flower.

During WWI, all of these nascent clubs focused on ways to support the war effort, generally by growing vegetables and encouraging other clubs to do the same. Warrenton held a vegetable show and sold a little booklet for 25 cents in which “dreary wartime recipes abounded.” Albemarle supported a nurse during the influenza epidemic, aided a French orphan and helped repair devastated gardens in France. James River promoted backyard gardens as well as a community war garden for children; the club also assisted in the restoration of French gardens destroyed by the war. Fauquier and Loudoun contributed toward the salaries of Home Demonstration Agents*, printed a cookbook and participated in the Land Army*.

Three more clubs — The Garden Club of Danville, Dolley Madison Garden Club in Orange and The Augusta Garden Club in Staunton — sprouted in the Virginia countryside immediately after the war. When Mrs. Thomas Wheelwright, president of The James River Garden Club, issued an invitation to a conference in Richmond in May of 1920, these eight clubs responded, and the Garden Club of Virginia was born.

A sustained interest in beautification, conservation and education — be it of one’s own garden or the “garden” that is our state — runs like a leitmotif in the history of the Garden Club of Virginia, beginning with these early clubs. Over the next century, 40 more clubs have joined, and GCV sails into its second century full of bloom and vigor.

—Aileen Laing, *The Warrenton Garden Club*

*Home Demonstration Clubs, also called Homemaker Clubs, were a program of the USDA’s Cooperative Extension Service that began in the early part of the 20th century. Their goal was to improve the lives of women and their families living in rural areas. Home Demonstration Agents taught principles of gardening, nutrition, canning and sewing to help improve living conditions and raise standards of living.

The Land Army, also known as the Women’s Land Army (WLA), was a civilian organization modeled after the British Women’s Land Army. It was created during both world wars to fill voids in the agriculture industry by replacing men called up to serve in the military. WLA women were also known as farmerettes.



JUANITA PATTERSON

THE VISIONARY FOUNDER OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA



ABOVE: Juanita Patterson

*The State Highway Commission is now known as the Commonwealth Transportation Board. It operates under the purview of the Virginia Department of Transportation.

One hundred years ago, a visionary woman with a noble dream launched an organization that today has raised millions of dollars to maintain the beauty of Virginia and continues to mobilize thousands of women across the state to propel that dream. That person is Juanita Patterson, the founder (with Laura Wheelwright) and first president of the Garden Club of Virginia. Mrs. Patterson's influence and legacy throughout the state is incalculable. Her ideas, tireless enthusiasm and unlimited dedication have transformed perceptions about Virginia's natural beauty and that which is held dear.

Many of the issues that Mrs. Patterson championed 100 years ago are remarkably similar to the issues of today. In 1922, she created the first GCV committee, the Conservation Committee, and she chaired it from 1922-1930. Their first task was to educate the public about preserving the state's native wildflowers, trees and shrubs. Today, it is recognized that our native plants are essential to the survival of our ecosystem, and the GCV continues to vigorously promote their use.

With the rapid growth of the highway system in the 1920s, highway workers were clearing and topping trees to make way for traffic and telephone lines, causing an unsightly mess. Mrs. Patterson contacted the highway department directly and, as a result, the state appointed a landscape architect and six GCV members to the State Highway Commission* to ensure environmental considerations and aesthetics would factor into highway design. She then launched a GCV project to plant one million dogwood trees along state roads. Soon thereafter, Virginia was blanketed with our lovely state tree. Today, the GCV promotes roadside plantings, which include the creation of a pollinator pathway along state roads with the addition of pollinator-friendly native plants and trees.

In 1929, the Virginia Public Service Company tried to create an electric power development in Goshen Pass, in Rockbridge County near Lexington, which included a proposed 53-foot high dam. Mrs. Patterson argued that the dam would mar, if not destroy, the area's incomparable natural beauty. Her efforts resulted in the defeat of the proposal thereby saving Goshen Pass. Over the past 100 years, the GCV has lobbied to save Goshen Pass at least four times; no doubt there will probably be cause to do it again.

Juanita Patterson's spirit and vision are alive and well in the GCV. When she died in 1932, the *Richmond News Leader*, stated:

"...could any Virginia woman of her day have asked for greater distinction than to be mourned as the mother of the glorious gardens that now brighten the Virginia landscape?"

—Heidi James, The Lynchburg Garden Club



Paula Pryke

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.

flower
flower



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, the *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.

GCV Journal: 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.

Journal: 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.

Journal: 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 ten, and I adore bright green like *Viburnum opulus* [snowball viburnum] or *Alchemilla mollis* [lady's mantle], silver



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)



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.

Journal: 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.

Journal: 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.

Journal: 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 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



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GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA

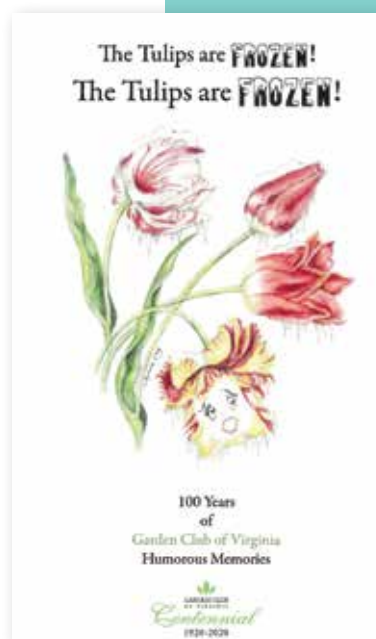
Centennial

1920-2020

DONORS AND SUPPORTERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Every gift is important to GCV. Every gift is honored and every donor recognized for their generosity and support. And we are finding new ways to say “Many Thanks!”

An Honor Roll of Donors will soon be introduced on the GCV website with timely and ongoing acknowledgments of your generosity. The listing of donors will no longer be included in the quarterly *Journals*. Instead, the *Journal* will publish a contributors’ insert annually and the *Year in Review* will note all gifts of that fiscal year. Perhaps you have heard . . . one may never say thank you too much!



THE TULIPS ARE FROZEN! THE TULIPS ARE FROZEN!

What better way to celebrate our Centennial than with this delightful collection of humorous recollections from GCV members? Get ready to giggle. Compiled by Judy Perry (The Elizabeth River Garden Club) with artwork by Marcia Long (The Williamsburg Garden Club).

Available on the Shop page of the GCV website. \$10 per copy plus shipping. Discounts available for 10 or more copies.

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Jo Catron

GCV Exhibition Publication
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GCV Humorous Memories
Judy Perry

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Missy Buckingham and
Anne Cross

**Kent-Valentine House
Reception**
Bebe Luck and Alice Martin

Photography Exhibit
Claire Mellinger

VMFA Luncheon
Mary Frediani and
Martha Moore

Gala Chairman
Cathy Lee

Woltz/Pryke Speakers
Julie Grover

Paula Pryke Demonstration
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Artistic Design Exhibit
Tory Willis

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Appreciation is extended to the Virginia Museum of History & Culture (VMHC) as partners in the success of the GCV exhibition open to the public July 1 through November 1, 2020. Thanks as well to the GCV staff for contributing their expertise and ongoing support.



GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA

Centennial

1920-2020

Centennial

snips



The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton, Boxwood, James River and Three Chopt Garden Clubs

RICHMOND, VA : GCV DISTRICT 1

Members of four Richmond garden clubs—The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton, James River, Boxwood, and Three Chopt—channeled New York florist and guerilla artist extraordinaire Lewis Miller by staging their own RVA “flower flash” in late June. Masked, gloved, distanced, and full of mischievous creativity, a team of flashers gathered in the garden of TGCW member Rose Marie Bundy. Fellow members dropped off hydrangeas, rudbeckias, coneflowers and



Chief Flower Flasher Meredith Lauter (The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton) gives a big thumb's up after a successful installation at the Virginia Treatment Center for Children. *Photo by Jennifer Sisk*

viburnum. The team quickly crafted giant hearts made with greenery and chicken wire and fashioned dozens of colorful posies that would serve as the display's surprise element. At dawn the next day, the arrangers assembled at Children's Hospital of Richmond and the Virginia Treatment Center for Children to install the floral sculptures that would greet the unsuspecting essential workers, patients and families on that sunny morning. And the pièce de résistance was the nearly 150 bouquets that were handed out as a dose of much-needed joy to those at the front lines. “So often the act of giving to others becomes a gift to ourselves,” said Barbara Yorgen, JRGC member and club flash coordinator. “Flower Flash was a wonderful opportunity to show the community's gratitude

to essential workers at two critical healthcare facilities for children. Watching their smiles when spying the spectacular flower hearts and receiving bouquets was a lasting gift to all.”

—Laura Whisnand, The James River Garden Club

The Augusta Garden Club

STAUNTON, VA : GCV DISTRICT 2

Sharing the love of gardening and hospitality allowed members of the Augusta Garden Club to stay connected during the summer despite the absence of meetings due to Covid. Realizing that one of the blessings of being isolated at home was that many people had more time to focus on gardening, members were invited to open their gardens for a summer series of informal tours. “Wednesdays in Our Gardens” featured the gardens of 14 club members from mid-June through the end of July and ranged from winding woodland sites and rambling country flower and vegetable beds, to terraced town lawns and colorful patio gardens. The tours were well received with up to 30 visitors attending on most Wednesdays; a photo gallery was posted on the club website. As members strolled among shady paths, poolside perennial borders and colorful pots of annuals, the joy of reconnecting with each other was palpable. These Wednesday garden tours reinforced the club's mission of encouraging the knowledge and love of gardening. Additional tours are planned for the fall.

—Deneen Brannock, The Augusta Garden Club

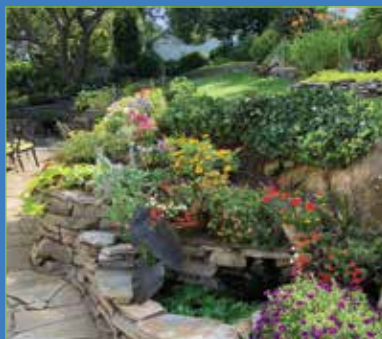


Photo courtesy of The Augusta Garden Club



One of three student-decorated rain barrels at Roanoke's Virginia Museum of Transportation installed by Rainwater Management Solutions. *Photo courtesy of Roanoke Valley Garden Club*

Roanoke Valley Garden Club

ROANOKE, VIRGINIA : GCV DISTRICT 4

As one of our ongoing projects, Roanoke Valley Garden Club has planted and maintained several large containers in the railyard at the Virginia Museum of Transportation in Roanoke for many years. This year we added plantings to the six raised beds in the front of the museum. Three rain barrels were installed in July to capture stormwater runoff from the large roof surface and provide water for the shrubs and flowers in these beds. Area elementary school students submitted transportation-themed art to decorate the barrels with colorful drawings. Now that the museum is open again after closing due to Covid, visitors can see both the front beds that were planted thanks to a generous gift from Berglund Automotive and the flowering back planters, which we maintain each season. Inside, there is a new exhibit that details how rain barrels work and displays the additional art that Wendy McCauley's 4th-grade students at Garden City Elementary School submitted. This project promotes water conservation and provides educational benefits to the 50,000 guests and school children who visit the museum each year.

—Eileen J. Dickey, Roanoke Valley Garden Club

The garden of Lynchburg Garden Club member Catherine Madden was included in the 2018 Horticulture Field Day itinerary.

HORTICULTURE

WHERE WE'VE BEEN,
WHERE WE ARE,
WHERE WE'RE GOING



GCV's Centennial daffodil, 'Green Arrow,' grown by Jeanette Cadwallender, won The Member Clubs' Award, Best Standard Bloom in Show, ADS Gold Ribbon and the ADS Small Growers' Ribbon. 'Green Arrow' was developed by Brent Heath of Brent & Becky's Bulbs in Gloucester.

The last 100 years of horticulture in the Garden Club of Virginia was best described in Martha Moore's *Journal* article from 2016. Martha, who heralds from the Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton, wrote, "Over the first 100 years of the Garden Club of Virginia, the Horticulture Committee's responsibilities have encompassed three main areas: horticulture education, Horticulture Field Day and horticulture exhibits. In the latter part of the 20th century, the committee included as part of its educational effort regular articles on plants, dirt and gardening tips. It has always worked quietly behind the scenes to accomplish and promote the mission of the GCV and to inspire a love of gardening by educating our members on best garden practices and plant material."

Today, the Horticulture Committee continues to educate but also trains members in the growing, showing and judging process. As members became skilled at cultivating a variety of specimens, so grew the desire to enter serious shows expanding beyond lily, rose and daffodil blooms. Horticulture committee members Kim Cory and Fran Carden (Albemarle Garden Club) led this charge with their "traveling road show," providing techniques to make showing stems less intimidating. Their thoughtfully curated horticulture schedules pushed boundaries gently, and those in attendance at the 2017 and 2018 GCV symposia were delighted when they saw the wide array of horticulture exhibited. At the Natural Bridge Conservation Forum in 2019, mostly green entries were exhibited, making a well-received and informative display of ferns, hostas, pine and pawpaws. Education, combined with opportunities for horticulture shows and workshops, has led to an uptick in members who are interested in becoming accredited horticulture judges. Training opportunities are



available through well-established national programs, such as the American Daffodil Society, and the horticulture committee is excited to support those aspiring judges.

Horticulture Field Day is another favorite event for GCV members and horticulturists. Field Day offers a leisurely and up-close opportunity to examine form, structure and individual plants in featured gardens across different regions of Virginia. While Covid has impacted this year's Field Day, plans are underway for a dynamic program in 2021.

During the next 100 years, Horticulture Committee members will continue embracing the highest standards of excellence. Our Horticulture Award of Merit winners will remain club leaders as we strive to emulate their work in our gardens and in our communities. Heidi James, Horticulture chairman (Lynchburg Garden Club), will build on prior years, as organic practices meet an educated group of gardeners determined to create a pollinator-friendly world. "A main focus for our committee going forward will be to hone in on the importance of landscape horticulture for our ecosystem and to educate our membership about how horticulture enhances the health and quality of life for the world at large," says Heidi. "We aim to make 'horticulture' a familiar word, especially since we use plants for food, comfort and beautification. We hope to stimulate a love of gardening and a knowledge of horticulture by providing expertise and information to our club members and the general public, particularly the urgency of growing native plants, including native trees, shrubs, ground covers, vines and perennials."

**—Wendy Walker, GCV Horticulture Committee Chairman (2018-2020),
The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore**

ABOVE LEFT: A tour of Old City Cemetery in Lynchburg was a highlight at the 2018 Horticulture Field Day. Described as a "grave garden," the cemetery, which dates from the early 1800s, is an arboretum of historic plants and was a GCV Common Wealth Award project.

ABOVE: Horticulture exhibits on display at the 2019 Natural Bridge Conservation Forum.



THE PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE OF PRESERVING VIRGINIA'S HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

The Garden Club of Virginia's Centennial is an opportunity to reflect on all that our organization has accomplished to fulfill one of our founding missions: to aid in the restoration and preservation of historic gardens in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The GCV's garden restoration initiatives began in 1924 when members voted to donate \$500 to help save aged trees at The College of William & Mary. A similar request from the Jefferson Memorial Foundation to save trees planted in Thomas Jefferson's era at Monticello led to a 1926 flower show that raised \$7,000 to fund the project. When the Kenmore Association made a request in 1928 to restore the gardens and grounds of Kenmore, the idea of a "garden pilgrimage" was born. The first Historic Garden Week began in 1929 to raise the needed funds.

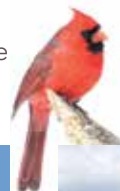
Following the GCV's success at Kenmore, a request came from an association with a mission to preserve Stratford Hall and its gardens. A second Historic Garden Week was held and momentum officially took hold. For the better part of a century, our work in historic restoration continues with projects as varied as Bacon's Castle, Monticello, Fincastle, Mount Vernon, Belmont and Virginia's Executive Mansion—all funded with proceeds from Historic Garden Week. An



Aerial shot of the Stratford Hall GCV garden restoration. *Photo by Matt Peterschmidt*

application process allows eligible properties (at least 50 years old and not private) to make direct requests to the GCV Restoration Committee for funding. GCV leverages professional landscape architects to plan and oversee restoration projects. The GCV has worked with some of the 20th century's most prominent practitioners including Charles Gillette, Arthur Shurcliff, Morley Williams, Alden Hopkins, Donald Parker, Ralph E. Griswold and Rudy Favretti. And, most recently, William D. Rieley has served as our landscape architect for over 20 years.

The most recent documentation of the restoration work of the GCV is Margaret Page Bemiss' *Historic Virginia Gardens: Preservation Work of the Garden Club of Virginia, 1975-2007*. Margaret's book follows Dorothy Hunt Williams' *Historic Virginia Gardens: Preservations by the Garden Club of Virginia and Gardens and Landscapes of Virginia*. Our restoration work is now digitized and is available on the Virginia Museum of History & Culture website. A future project will be to document the work since 2007.



GCV RESTORATION AND CLUB PROGRAMMING

If your club is looking for enriching programming ideas, consider showcasing the GCV's work in historic landscape preservation.

Restoration Committee members are available to present GCV restoration projects in PowerPoint programs to all 48 clubs.

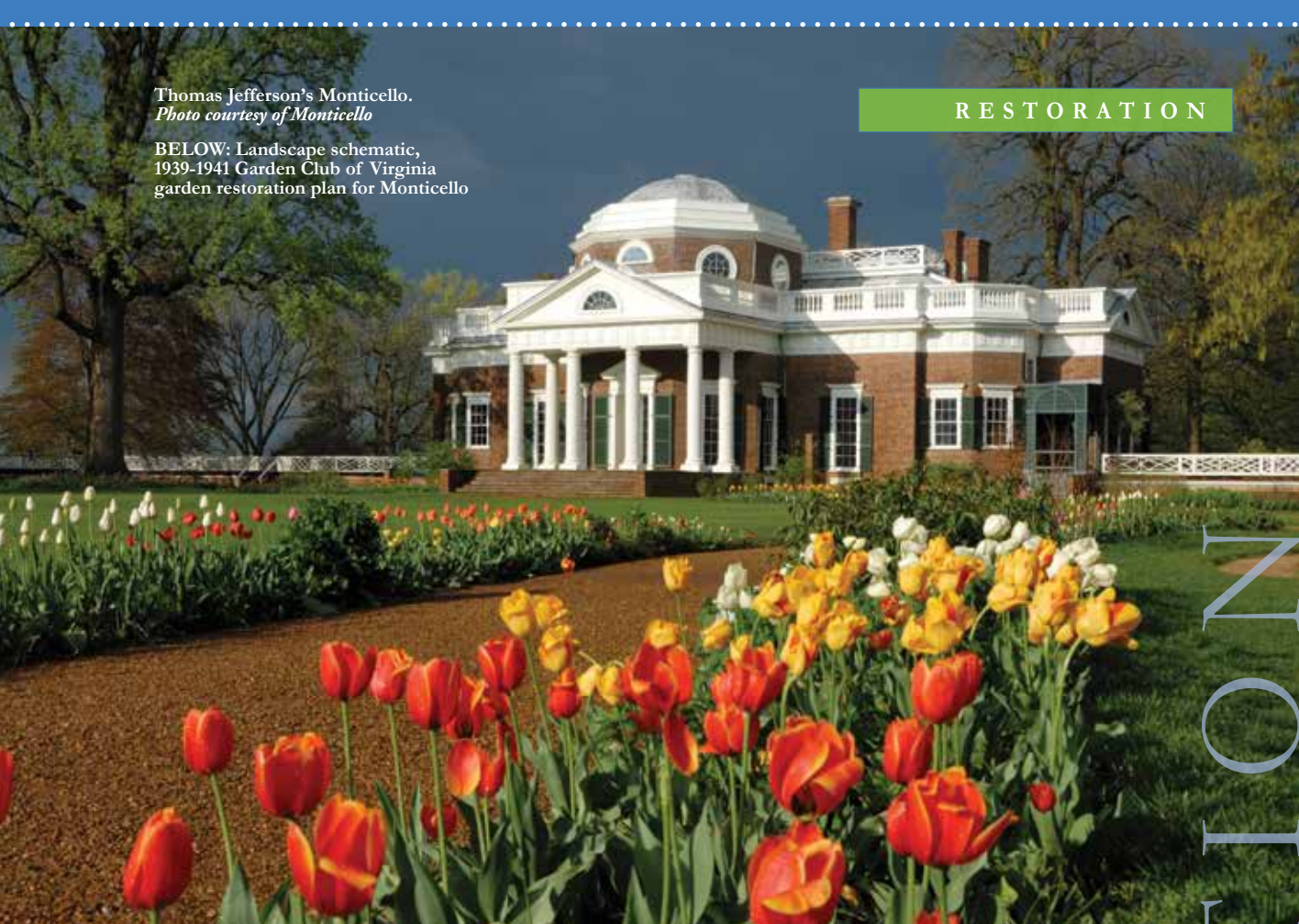
For more information contact Betsy Worthington, Restoration Committee Chairman (2020-2022), The Lynchburg Garden Club, at worthbetsy@comcast.net



Newly laid sod at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest, a recent GCV restoration project. *Photo courtesy of Poplar Forest*

Thomas Jefferson's Monticello.
Photo courtesy of Monticello

BELOW: Landscape schematic,
1939-1941 Garden Club of Virginia
garden restoration plan for Monticello



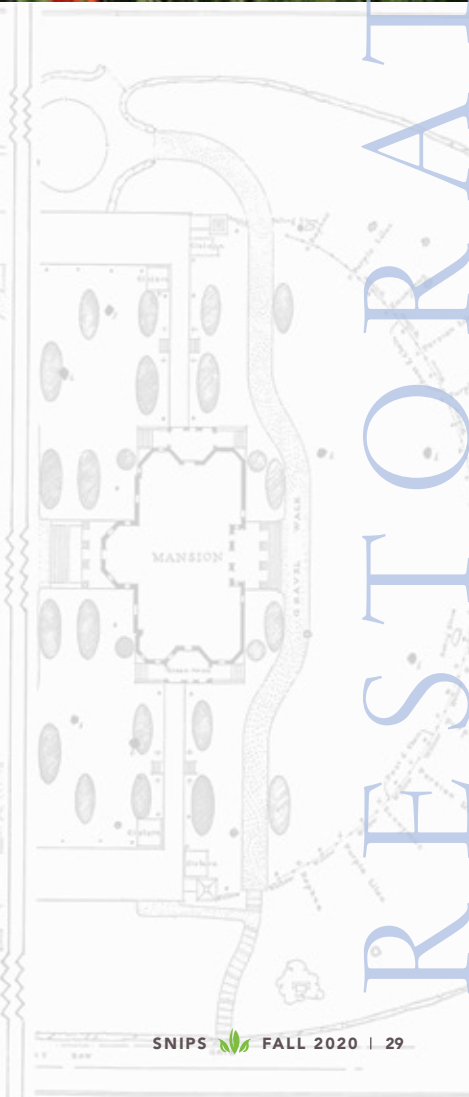
In addition to our work in restoration, the GCV has also established research fellowships including those in landscape architecture. The Research Fellowship Committee consists of GCV members and expert advisors who work with our landscape architect to select projects to be documented each summer, identify two fellows, and then oversee their restoration work. These projects are listed in our *Directory & Handbook*, and the finished projects are available online. Bound copies are also housed at the VMHC, the Kent-Valentine House and the Cherokee Garden Library.

It is always exciting when projects cross the finish line. This year we completed garden projects at Stratford Hall and Point of Honor. Work is close to completion at Poplar Forest and is underway in a partnership

with William & Mary to install a garden with plans drawn by Charles Gillette but never implemented.

Gardeners know that gardens change with time. The Restoration Committee liaisons visit our restoration projects regularly and are open to requests to revisit our work as needs change. As the science of archaeology improves, the future may bring new discoveries of hidden gardens to be restored. Whatever the future holds for new restorations, GCV members should take great pride in what we have accomplished together. Enjoy our presentations, then visit our projects and see the landscapes we have preserved for our commonwealth and for all to appreciate.

—Anne Baldwin, Restoration Committee Chairman (2018-2020), The Garden Club of Alexandria



WHY SCOOP THE POOP CONSERVATION & BEAUTIFICATION



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF PROTECTING VIRGINIA'S RESOURCES



Bessie Carter, GCV president from 1998-2000, was a legendary conservationist. After her death in 2008, her family created the Bessie Bocoek Carter Conservation Award to fund a conservation project to serve as a catalyst for community action. In 2015, Mill Mountain Garden Club was a recipient of this generous grant for "Scoop the Poop" campaign to create public awareness about the effects of pet waste on waterways. A complete list of Bessie Bocoek Carter Conservation Award recipients is available on the GCV website, which also contains submission information.

During the GCV's first meeting in May 1920, the membership agreed that the purpose of this new organization was to be "for good roads, against the billboard nuisance, for preservation of plants, roadsides, historic homes and gardens, conservation of native beauty, and warfare against pests." To tackle these issues, the Conservation & Beautification Committee (C&B) was formed two years later in 1922 and became the GCV's first committee.

Since its inception, the committee has relentlessly pursued protection of land and water, viewsheds, native plants, state parks and historic sites. A commitment to protect native wildlife and pollinators is a continued focus, as well as thoughtful advocacy for land use and support of measures to safeguard clean air and clean water. Gardening best practices are heartily endorsed along with the "Refuse to Use" campaign – refusing to use single-use plastics. Accomplishments are amplified not only through the work of the committee and member clubs but also through cooperative engagement with other GCV committees and organizations with similar priorities.

The first action item for the newly formed C&B Committee in 1922 was to conserve the state's natural resources and "to educate the public about preserving the state's wildflowers, native trees and shrubs." Member clubs were urged to sponsor contests with prizes for school children explaining the importance of protecting native plants. These early conservationists addressed the "unsightly" cutting and topping of trees on the new interstate highway system, which were increasingly marring viewsheds. From 1928 to 1932, club members were known to paint over advertising slogans on rocks and wield axes to take down unsightly billboards. These efforts convinced the Virginia General Assembly to pass a bill that brought down 1,000 billboards across the state. Early conservation activists also undertook planting dogwood trees statewide with the slogan "One Million Dogwoods by 1935." Together they rescued and restored trees planted in Jefferson's era, an effort funded by staging an ambitious Monticello Flower Show.

Today's C&B Committee and club chairmen work alongside like-minded partner organizations to support responsible energy transmission infrastructure that doesn't threaten landscapes, historic viewsheds and wildlife. We advocate for legislative funding to clean up our rivers and streams. We strive to use alternatives to single-use plastics. We advocate against offshore drilling and seismic testing.

BESSIE BOCOCK CARTER CONSERVATION AWARD
CALLING ALL GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA MEMBER CLUBS!

If your club is working on a conservation project that will serve as a catalyst for community action, this award is available. Monetary assistance for natural resource conservation or environmental protection within the commonwealth is awarded to a club at the GCV Annual Meeting in May.

APPLY BY NOVEMBER 1. Find the application on the GCV website in the Awards & Grants link under Our Work. Applications should be postmarked by November 1 and mailed to: The Garden Club of Virginia, Kent-Valentine House, 12 East Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219.

QUESTIONS? Jane Edwards, GCV Conservation Awards Chairman at je-1gn@earthlink.net.



Now in its 62nd year, the committee sponsors conservation forums and workshops that address timely environmental education topics germane to the GCV's mission. In 2015, the Conservation Environmental Studies Fellowship was established and first awarded to Nikki Andresen, a Virginia Commonwealth University student, whose project investigated optimal soil condition and nutrients. The most recent recipients of this now annual fellowship are Heather Kenny (2019), a master's degree student in biology at the College of William & Mary, who is studying the effect of noise pollution on bluebird behavior, and Emily Riff (2020) from VCU, whose research focuses on native and invasive dune grasses.

We have been deeply impacted by visionary leaders, both within the GCV and beyond. Their journeys inspire us—and the next generation—to timely action. We listen. We learn. We act. Annually we honor them through the Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award, the Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award, the de Lacy Gray Memorial Medal and Conservation Educator awards.

Today we may have more advanced communication tools than in 1922, but our commitment and *esprit de corps* remain the same. And, just as our forebearers were committed to “preserving the beauty of the land,” the Conservation and Beautification Committee will continue to help propel the GCV's mission to preserve and protect the extraordinary beauty and natural resources of Virginia.

—Allison Clock, *Conservation and Beautification Committee Chairman (2020-2022), The Hampton Roads Garden Club*



DON'T MISS HEATHER KENNY'S VIDEO AT GCVIRGINIA.ORG



This 2019 Conservation and Environmental Studies Fellowship recipient discusses her research on “Eastern Bluebirds’ nesting habits and their response to surrounding noise pollution” in a short video available on the GCV website.



Low line photo courtesy of Capital Trees

62ND ANNUAL CONSERVATION FORUM

THE URBAN LANDSCAPE: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

HEALTHY HABITATS & URBAN GREENING

Join us on **October 27, 2020**, for our first ever online forum.

Pre-recorded presentations include:

- Renowned Conservationist Douglas W. Tallamy • Capital Trees—Richmond • Bees in the Healthy Habitat • Main Street Beautification Projects • Urban Forestry • Native Plants by ZIP code • The Importance of Biodiversity • And meet the 2020 Dugdale and Conservation Educator Award winners.



Photo credit: Rob Cardillo

CONSERVATION FORUM KEYNOTE SPEAKER DOUG TALLAMY HAS AUTHORED 95 RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS AND TAUGHT INSECT-RELATED COURSES FOR 40 YEARS.

His most recent book is *New York Times* Best Seller *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard*. He is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware.

GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA

Centennial

Forum is open to the public. Visit GCVirginia.org/forum2020

GOES LIVE OCTOBER 27, 2020

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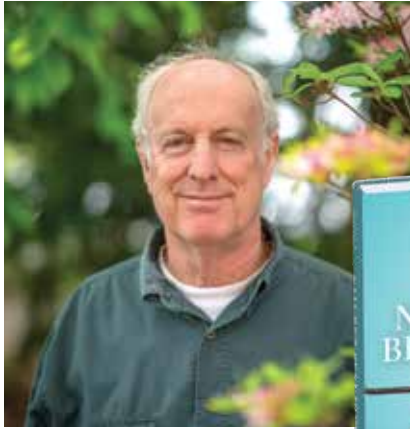


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Nature's Best Hope

DOUG TALLAMY

Timber Press, 2020. 256 pp.

In the Garden Club of Virginia's Centennial year, what better way to celebrate 100 years of activism than to showcase the work of the GCV's longtime ally, Doug Tallamy. This entomologist and environmental advocate shares the GCV's mission—to conserve the gifts of nature. His first book, *Bringing Nature Home* (Timber Press, 2009), is a staple on garden club member bookshelves and libraries from Alexandria to the Eastern Shore, and in it he justifies the liberal use of native plants in the landscape. His latest book, *Nature's Best Hope*, published earlier this year, reiterates this message and details why it's vitally important for all of us to heed the call. Tallamy is a scientist, but he presents what could otherwise be a barrage of dense facts in a compelling, engaging way. Ultimately his message is both urgent and encouraging: We all can be part of the solution to our growing environmental challenges.

Tallamy discusses our collective attraction to introduced vs. native plants. This attraction is not new. Our own native plant, Virginia spiderwort—*Tradescantia virginiana*—is named after John Tradescant, a 17th-century British plant collector and gardener. This herbaceous perennial made its way to England thanks to the Tradescants; the international plant and seed trade gained

significant traction once botanist and explorer John Bartram of Philadelphia entered the scene around 1750. But, Tallamy says, mounting evidence now shows



that this attraction to introduced plants is causing a detrimental environmental chain reaction. Many are invasive, spreading at an alarming rate and crowding out our native species. In the eastern U.S., the over-population of

deer adds to the problem: the already dwindling native plant population, their preferred food staple, is being decimated. And introduced plants in our landscapes have essentially created a desert—a foodless wasteland for insects, birds and animals. None of these species can survive without native plants. If these creatures fail, eventually humans will, as we are all part of the food web.

We truly are nature's best hope, says Tallamy, who provides a very detailed plan of action. In this newest book, which made it to the *New York Times* best-seller list, he encourages us to fall in love with natives the way we have fallen for introduced plants. He encourages us to create our own "Homegrown National Park," and he includes a sensible blueprint to follow: plant native plants, shrink our lawns, avoid using chemicals and fertilizers, remove invasive species and support wildlife. If we each act now, we can slow the cascading series of events and repair the environment.

Tallamy says there is power in peer pressure: If we each make planting native plants a priority, others will follow our lead. The more we enlist the better ... and the more impact our collective actions will have.

—Heidi James, GCV Horticulture Committee Chairman, The Lynchburg Garden Club

Above photos courtesy of Timber Press

WHAT GCV CLUBS CAN DO:

- Consider showcasing properties that feature native plant gardens for Historic Garden Week
- Incorporate native plants in flower arrangements—in your home and at flower shows
- Support legislation to encourage the use of native plants at the local, state and federal level
- Encourage VDOT to use native plants
- Feature articles in club newsletters about the importance of using native plants
- Include native plant experts/speakers in your club programming
- Encourage member clubs to initiate projects using native plants

New to native plants?

- Explore plants native to Virginia on plantvirginiannatives.org, a website cosponsored by NOAA and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Lists of native plants by region are downloadable as pdfs.
- Search for native plants by ZIP code on the National Wildlife Federation's online plant finder at nwf.org/nativeplantfinder



Tallamy suggests including "keystone" plants in your landscape—powerhouse plants that provide the most food for insects and birds. His favorite is the white oak—*Quercus alba*—which supports 557 species of caterpillars, which in turn supports a plethora of songbirds and small mammals. Compare it to the ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*) which supports none. Next time you're out and about, take a look at the critter activity in and around an oak tree, then a ginkgo. You'll see there is no comparison. *Photo courtesy of Doug Tallamy*

GCV CALENDAR 2020-2021

All dates subject to change; please check the GCV calendar online for current information and updates



OCTOBER

- District 2 Board of Governors Meeting and Leadership Luncheon, Poplar Forest | **16**
- District 3 Board of Governors Meeting and Leadership Luncheon, Gloucester | **21**
- District 1 Board of Governors Meeting and Leadership Luncheon, Richmond | **22**
- Photography Workshop "Basic Editing"—Kent-Valentine House (*sold out*)
- District 4 Board of Governors Meeting and Leadership Luncheon, Bassett | **26**
- 62nd Annual Conservation Forum, gcvirginia.org/forum2020 | **27**
- Photography Workshop "Basic Composition" Kent-Valentine House | **28**

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PLAN A CLUB VISIT TO THE GCV EXHIBITION IN OCTOBER

A Landscape Saved: The Garden Club of Virginia at 100 remains open until November 1 at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, Richmond. Plan a club visit to see the exhibition and lunch afterwards at the Kent-Valentine House (a short drive away). Safety and health guidelines will be observed in both locations. Contact Kris Carbone, Centennial Steering Committee Chairman, for group visit information at kcarbone@gamewood.net. For individual visits, advanced purchase of individual timed-entry tickets is required and must be obtained on the VMHC website at virginiahistory.org.



NOVEMBER

- Last day to visit *A Landscape Saved: The Garden Club of Virginia at 100*—VMHC, Richmond | **01**
- Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award nominations due
- Journal* deadline for winter 2021 issue
- District 6 Board of Governors Meeting and Leadership Luncheon, Norfolk | **02**
- District 5 Board of Governors Meeting and Leadership Luncheon, Leesburg | **05**
- Photography Workshop "Basic Composition"—Kent-Valentine House (*sold out*)
- Historic Garden Week Marketing Meeting, Richmond | **12**
- Photography Workshop "Basic Editing" Kent-Valentine House

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JANUARY

- Publication of winter *Journal* | **11**

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2021 SAVE THE DATES

- March 30** | Daffodil Day at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
- April 17-24** | Historic Garden Week
- May 5** | GCV Annual Meeting
- May 19-20** | Horticulture Field Day
- June 15** | Lilies in Bloom
- June 22-23** | Historic Garden Week Boot Camp



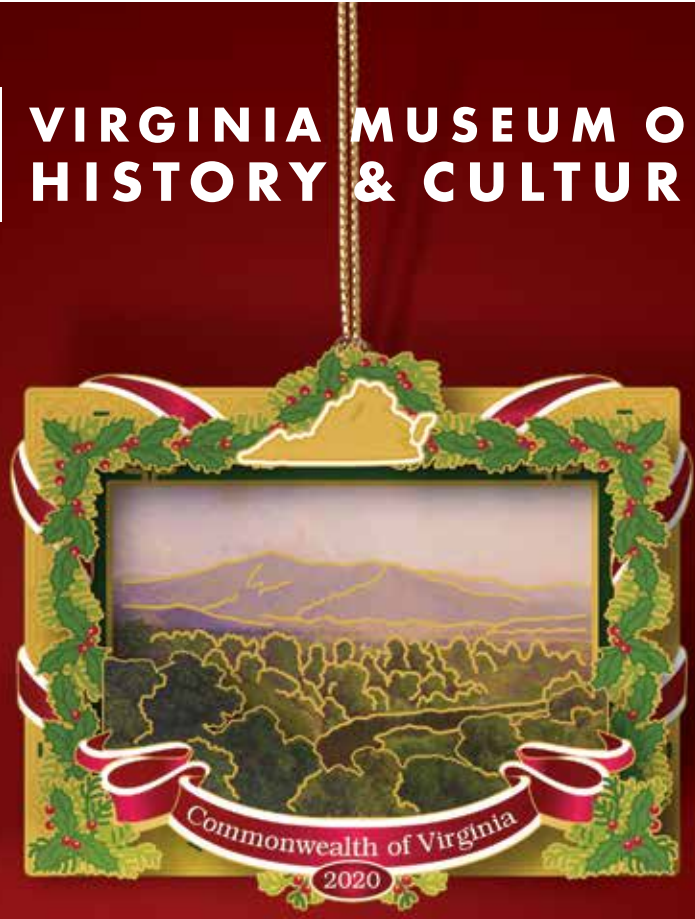
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VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE

A
**LANDSCAPE
SAVED**
The Garden Club of Virginia at 100
at VMHC through
November 1.



■

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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EXCLUSIVELY FOR GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS
SAVE 20% WITH CODE GCV2020
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