

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA JOURNAL

Late Winter/February 2022 | Volume LXVII | No. 1

R. Good

INSIDE

The Anne Spencer Garden | Paula Pryke on Late Winter Arrangements | Bird-Watching | Daffodil Day

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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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Summer	August	June 1
Fall	November	September 1

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12



22



16

TOP: Paula Pryke, *photo courtesy of Paula Pryke*;
 ABOVE: The Anne Spencer House, *photo by Roger Foley*

COVER ART: *Winter's Light*, 16" x 20,"
 pastel, by Rochelle Good, the Princess Anne
 Garden Club

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ANNE SPENCER GARDEN, named by *Veranda Magazine* as one of the "Top 30 most beautiful gardens in the world." Our coverage starts on Page 16.

ON THE COVER: ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

ROCHELLE GOOD

“My passion for the coastal Virginia landscape is forever present in my artwork,” says Rochelle Good of our cover art, *Winter’s Light*. Here, cool winter sun sparks pine boughs, slanting over seagrass at the river’s edge, evoking in pastel a salty peacefulness known well to lovers of the Chesapeake. The setting is an area on the Lynnhaven River under conservation at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s Brock Environmental Center.

A lifelong artist who took her first prize at the age of seven, Rochelle recently took top artistic honors in Lynchburg’s Academy Center of the Arts’ juried exhibition of GCV members’ work, held in conjunction with the Board of Governors meeting in October. Her winning submission, *Bay Journey*, depicts the bay itself, observed from the beach at First Landing State Park near her Cape Henry home.

A native of Connecticut, the Princess Anne Garden Club member’s passion for her adopted home by the bay extends to her commitment to the natural environment and to her club. Co-chairman this year of PAGC’s annual fundraiser for First Landing, she helps raise money for the park, as well as for the Brock Center and other important conservation projects in the area. “I love the Princess Anne Garden Club—it’s so much fun. Meetings are like getting together with all of my best friends.” Her many passions are inspiring and infectious.

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



Winter’s Light, 16” x 20,” pastel, by Rochelle Good, the Princess Anne Garden Club

PRESIDENT’S LETTER

LATE WINTER 2022



While every season has its own appeal to appreciate and enjoy, it is challenging in these darkest and coldest months not to look ahead to what springtime will offer. Our first chance to put winter behind us will be during Daffodil Day in March, one of the nation’s largest daffodil shows. We look forward to sharing eye-catching photographs, award-winning daffodil specimens and spectacular flower arrangements with fellow daffodil enthusiasts.

We continue to learn about tree care, sustainable gardening and environmentally inspired flower arranging as we prepare to open gardens, landscapes, historic properties and homes during our 2022 Historic Garden Week tours. I applaud our members who welcome thousands of visitors to Virginia each spring with gracious hospitality. Your efforts significantly impact your community, state and regional economies. I am grateful for your ongoing support of the Garden Club of Virginia’s mission to restore and conserve our state’s historic treasures and provide research fellowships in landscape architecture. You are making a difference in your own communities and for future generations to enjoy.

I look forward to joining you as together we will soon welcome springtime in Virginia.

Missy

Missy Buckingham
GCV President, 2020-2022



The British Are Coming!

Join GCV members and fellow daffodil enthusiasts for Daffodil Day.

March 29, 2022

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
Richmond
Register at GCVirginia.org



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 - District 6 (2021-2023):** Carrie Goodman, The Princess Anne Garden Club

Garden Club of Virginia 2022-2024
Slate of Officers

The Nominations Committee presented the following names to the Garden Club of Virginia Board of Directors for approval at its January 25 meeting for the 2022-2024 Slate of Officers and Directors at Large.

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- President:** Debbie Lewis, The Garden Study Club
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- District 4:** Paula Irons, Roanoke Valley Garden Club

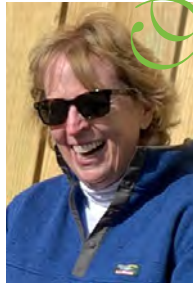
The names will be presented to voting members for approval at the 2022 Annual Meeting on May 11.



LATE WINTER 2022

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.

— THEODORE ROOSEVELT



The Stoics, a group of Hellenistic philosophers from the 3rd century B.C., understood that no matter what challenges life throws at us, we always have the option on how we respond. It's a perspective especially fitting today, when time after time we've been tossed curve balls, all completely out of our control. The key is what we do next. We can either marinate in sadness and grief and frustration, or we can choose a healthy option and *let it go*.

In my world, I am faced with many challenges, not the least of which is my landscape at home. Our boxwoods are riddled with leaf miner, our camelia leaves are infested with sooty mold and we're plagued with a drainage crisis that turns our backyard into Class 5 rapids when it rains.

But it could be worse. Fifteen years ago, my husband and I planted 10,000 daffodils at the river, only to kill 9,994 with soil we purchased that, unbeknownst to us, had been contaminated with bacteria. I admit I wince every time I recall that particular chapter but, as the Stoics would counsel, dwelling on it does no good. So I take a big gulp and move on. It's a lesson that's served me well.

If there is a *Journal* issue about resilience, it's this one. February is Black History Month, so we bring you the story of Anne Spencer and her garden in Lynchburg. This poet, activist, gardener and prominent figure in the Harlem Renaissance reveled in the garden she created in the early 1900s; it became her inspiration and her salvation as she grappled with the issues of racism and inequality in the deeply divided South, and it demonstrates the resilience of this extraordinary woman in the face of unspeakable oppression. The story of this garden's remarkable resurrection, spearheaded by Lynchburg Garden Club member Mina Wood, is something you won't want to miss.

And there's more. Daffodils, one of the most happy and reliable harbingers of spring, are celebrated in our feature on GCV's Daffodil Day—*The British are Coming!* This deep dive into the show includes the perspectives of horticulture, floral design and photography. Be sure to mark your calendars for March 29 at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond. Secrets to stunning late-season arrangements, courtesy of world-class British floral designer Paula Pryke, are revealed and begin on page 12. After a two-year, pandemic-imposed delay, Paula joins the GCV on May 12 for a long-awaited demonstration at Richmond's Virginia Museum of History & Culture.

Teddy Roosevelt's observation— *do what you can, with what you have, where you are*—is a reminder of the choices we in the GCV have. We can be resilient—or not. We choose resiliency.

See you in the garden,

Madeline Mayhood

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

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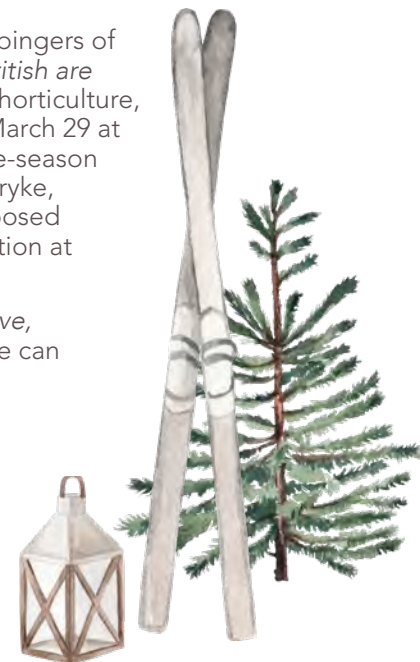
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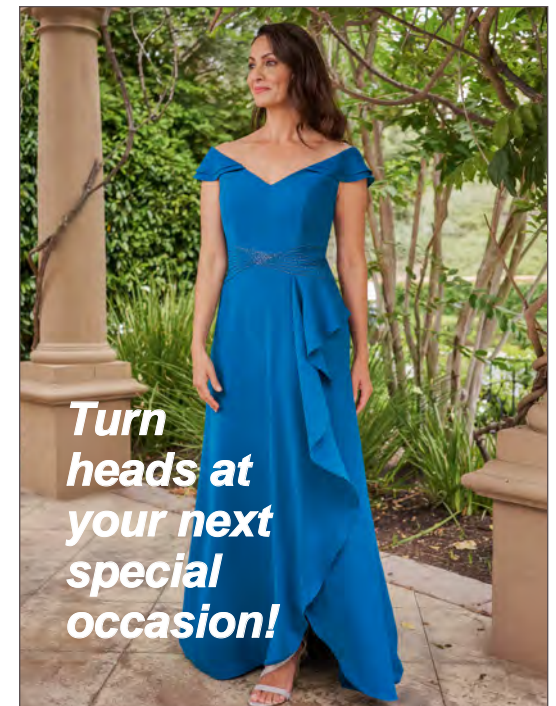


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Restoring Mr. Jefferson's Gardens

Monticello podcast reveals garden restoration story

After a century of neglect and different uses by various owners and caretakers, the Monticello of the 1920s was a far different place than it was in Thomas Jefferson's day—or today. In 1923, its new owners, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, began the process of restoring the gardens that Jefferson had designed.

We all know the players who came to the rescue and the story that followed. The Foundation and our own Garden Club of Virginia marshalled their resources, and through the gifts of time, treasure and talent, they committed to restoring Jefferson's vision. In "Through the Course of Human History," Monticello's podcast, Peggy Cornett, Monticello's curator of plants (and the GCV's most recent

honorary member) recounts the fascinating story of how these two organizations, through a number of collaborations and partnerships, laid the groundwork, not only to restore the gardens at Monticello, but also for future historic landscape restoration projects across the country. Peggy is joined by colleagues Ann Lucas, Monticello's senior historian, and guide Elizabeth Lukas. These three experts reveal intriguing and little-known

details. Astonishingly, as late as 1916, people did not believe Thomas Jefferson was the architect of UVA and Monticello—both designs were attributed to other architects. For history buffs, landscape preservationists, and Jefferson aficionados, this podcast is a must.

Monticello podcasts are available on most podcast platforms, including Apple and Stitcher and through Monticello.org.



View of the west front of Monticello and garden, depicting Thomas Jefferson's grandchildren, watercolor on paper by Jane Braddick Petcolas, 1825

Tree Tips from Bartlett Tree Experts

From low temps to frost cracks, watch for signs of winter damage.

While spring is right around the proverbial corner, there is still plenty of time for winter to wreak a bit of havoc on your garden. Plants, even though they're built to live outdoors, can be subject to all sorts of stresses associated with cold temperatures, snow and ice storms, all of which can cause damage to landscape plants. Bartlett Tree Experts suggests making sure you know what potential problems to look for to ensure your garden is in tip-top shape when spring finally arrives.

- **LOW TEMPERATURE INJURIES:** Shallow-rooted plants, those in containers and non-natives are particularly susceptible to root damage, especially during prolonged freezes. Damage won't manifest
- **WINTER DRYING:** Although plants continue to transpire during winter, when soil freezes, water can't be replaced and foliage dries out. Evergreens, most especially mountain laurel, rhodies, azaleas and holly, are particularly susceptible. Winter drying, as with low temps, manifests in brown foliage and dead buds in spring.
- **STEM SPLITTING OR FROST CRACKS:** Young, thin-barked trees, like maple, sycamore and linden, are susceptible to frost cracks. When temps drop suddenly—from sunny, daytime highs to very lows at night—stem tissues can shrink and wood may crack. While usually restricted to the outer few inches of wood, in severe cases cracks can extend well into the heartwood. In certain species, frost cracks can be a catalyst for decay.
- **BREAKAGE FROM ICE ACCUMULATION AND SNOW:** All plant material is susceptible to the added weight of snow or ice, but those with heavy branches, long limbs or those showing

until spring, however, when foliage will turn brown, buds die and the entire crown may wilt and suddenly die.

signs of decay or a weak branch attachment are most vulnerable. Evergreens, because of their large surface area that can hold a lot of snow, are also vulnerable.

- **DEICING SALT INJURIES:** Salt is often used as a deicing agent, but it can splash onto plants or seep into the soil, drying out foliage and buds. High levels of salt dry out plant roots, sometimes resulting in death.
- **CRITTER DAMAGE:** While on the one hand it's a good idea to provide a safe habitat for critters, especially in the winter, small rodents and rabbits can be problematic when they eat bark tissue around lower stems and root collars during winter. This can lead to death by girdling, which is when the bark is completely stripped from the tree. Deer can present another problem in the winter landscape when they turn to twigs and buds for sustenance when other food sources become scarce. "Buck rub" is another type of injury that happens when deer scrape their antlers against tree trunks.

—Nancy Inman, Albemarle Garden Club

For more information on best practices tree care, check out Bartlett Tree Experts' website and blog at Bartlett.com

DEADLINE for GCV Awards

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

DEADLINE MARCH 1, 2022

For more information, including past recipients and nomination forms, visit the GCV website, GCVirginia.org. Completed nominations should be postmarked 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.



Olmstead 200

Celebrate the Father of American Landscape Architecture

The immense therapeutic power of our parks and green spaces is obvious. And what better time to acknowledge the visionary who understood this: landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. Long before the scientific community embraced the power of nature to heal, Olmsted grasped the critical need for humans to connect with nature for their physical and mental well-being. The concept became a fundamental principle in his park-making in the 19th century. This year, the National Association of Olmsted Parks (NAOP) and Olmsted 200 will celebrate the bicentennial of Olmsted's birth—in Virginia and around the country. Albemarle Garden Club kicked off the festivities last September with its Olmsted Forum, and more Olmsted-centric events are planned throughout the state. "It is a great time to reimagine Olmsted's ideas," says Dede Petri, CEO and president of NAOP, "so that all communities have access to essential green spaces." Olmsted200.org, Olmsted.org



GREEN ARROW SOCIETY

Support the GCV with Planned Giving



Thanks to our generous members and supporters, the GCV has been able to honor its mission for 100 years. Many of these donors have chosen planned or "legacy" giving, which distinguishes them as steadfast supporters of the GCV and members of the Green Arrow Society.

"The Garden Club of Virginia has had a memorable impact on my life as it fulfills its mission and commitment to our communities and the Commonwealth of Virginia," says Clarkie Eppes of Hillside Garden Club. "Legacy giving affords me an opportunity to give back to an organization where friendships and learning opportunities have been fostered. As a Green Arrow Society member, I want to ensure that this legacy continues."

The Green Arrow Society is named for one of GCV's most enduring and familiar symbols. Just as iconic green arrows have directed hundreds of thousands of visitors along Historic Garden Week tours for nearly 90 years, members of the Green Arrow Society are helping point the way to a bright and sustainable future for the Garden Club of Virginia.



For more information on planned giving and the Green Arrow Society, contact GCV Executive Director Andrea Butler at 804-643-4137 or email director@gcvirginia.org

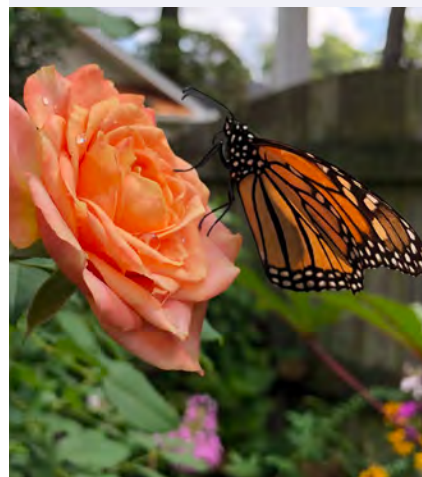
AWARD DEADLINE

Conservation Awards

DEADLINE: JUNE 1

- Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award (for Meritorious Achievement in Conservation)
- Conservation Educator Award

For more information, including nomination guidelines and past recipients, visit GCVirginia.org



Karen Elsworth



All About Orchids

Hillwood focuses on orchids in March

Hillwood, near Washington, D.C.'s Rock Creek Park, is the magnificent Georgian mansion-turned-museum and once home of Marjorie Merriweather Post. She moved there in 1955 and, thanks to her keen eye and visionary philanthropy, it contains the most comprehensive collection of Russian art outside of Russia and a distinguished 18th-century French decorative arts collection. Post was heiress to the C.W. Post cereal empire.

Orchids, Post's favorite flowers, enjoy a special

significance at Hillwood, which has deemed March as Orchid Month. A variety of in-person and Zoom opportunities—all about orchids—are available online to Hillwood members and nonmembers (for a modest fee) and include an orchid primer (Orchid 101), a repotting workshop, and tours of the property's orchid-filled greenhouses. All are hosted by Hillwood experts.

At some point, a visit to Hillwood should make your bucket list, and there you can enjoy a tour of the mansion (which includes Post's ultra

"high tech" 1950s kitchen and her own in-house beauty parlor), lunch at the Merriweather Café and a stroll around the gardens. Reveling in its 25 lushly landscaped acres is the perfect anecdote to these past few years of pandemic-induced isolation. HillwoodMuseum.org



Andreas Lischka - Pixabay

Planting and Arranging

New HGW Resource Available

Spring is almost here, so check out Historic Garden Week's new primer on plants that do well in Virginia gardens, along with tried-and-true flower arranging tips. *Suggested Plant Material and Flower Arranging Tips* is available on the HGW website and on the GCV's home page. VaGardenWeek.org, GCVirginia.org



VaGardenWeek.org

Photos courtesy of Donna Moulton



Natural Elements in Late Winter Arrangements

Photo courtesy of Paula Pryke

WINNING TIPS FROM PAULA PRYKE FOR STUNNING OFF-SEASON DESIGNS

by Kris Carbone, *The Garden Club of Danville*, and Karen Cauthen Ellsworth, *Director of Historic Garden Week and Special Programs*

In England, floral design traces its origins to the talented gardeners working on large country estates. Consequently, there's a long tradition of using harvested foliage in arrangements from designers across the pond. "When I first learned floristry at the Constance Spry School in the late 1980s, the use of foliage was essential for creating natural-looking arrangements," explains Paula Pryke, one of the world's most celebrated floral designers.

The London-based Pryke will share her signature style with Garden Club of Virginia members and the public this May. Tickets to her much anticipated demonstration at the newly renovated Virginia Museum of History & Culture in Richmond are available online only and are expected to sell out.

"Simple, natural arrangements, using flowers or foliage from your garden are straightforward to achieve," writes Pryke in *Everyday Flowers*, one of her most recent and "personal" books. "These are the arrangements I like the most."



Photos courtesy of: Donna Moulton, Rachel Whiting and Karen Ellsworth unless otherwise indicated

Appointed by the Queen of England to the Order of the British Empire in 2014, Pryke has always taken inspiration from nature, letting plant material lead the design process. It's a philosophy that still guides her today; foliage and greenery are almost more important than the choice of flowers. "For most of my designs, a third of the material would come under the broad heading of foliage," she points out.

Pryke often finds the greenery that's grown solely for the flower industry too stiff and uniform to create a pleasing arrangement. This is when a stroll through your winter garden is the only motivation you need. While there is less in our yards to choose from in February and early March, she nevertheless finds inspiration in the season. "Our designs often become more minimalist and creative to make the most of the foliage and seed heads we can harvest from the garden," she notes, adding that pairing collected items with purchased flowers nets a quick and inexpensive design.

"Winter is rich in possibilities," she writes. "Far from being the dullard in the flower arranger's calendar, it is a season of bold contrasts and dramatic statements." And it turns out, she has a thing for branches. "Stark, ethereal displays of bare twigs and branches capture the spirit of the winter landscape," she states.

Paula Pryke

Paula Pryke Floral Demonstration

Sponsored by Meredith Lauter and Robin and Bill Ingram

- **Thursday, May 12, 2022**
- 10 a.m. to noon
- \$75 pp
- Virginia Museum of History & Culture, Richmond
- In addition, limited seating for "Lunch with Paula" immediately after demonstration
- \$22 pp includes a boxed lunch
- For tickets and more information, visit GCVirginia.org





PAULA PRYKE'S FOLIAGE FAVORITES FOR LATE WINTER ARRANGEMENTS

Thankfully, no-oasis floral arranging is becoming the more acceptable and environmentally conscience choice with today's designers. Pryke favors twigs, which can be a thoughtful way to create the mechanics of an arrangement. For drama, she advises using "the habit of the tree to your advantage. Branches that naturally go upright add height, while arched branches give downward movement to a design. Groupings of twigs, such as dogwood, birch and cinnamon, are a useful and inexpensive device to add interest in your winter floral designs."

Looking toward early spring, it is a time of beginnings and transformation in the garden, when the bud formation on trees can be part of a design. "Cutting buds from your fruit trees brings the garden indoors and heightens the anticipation of spring," she notes.

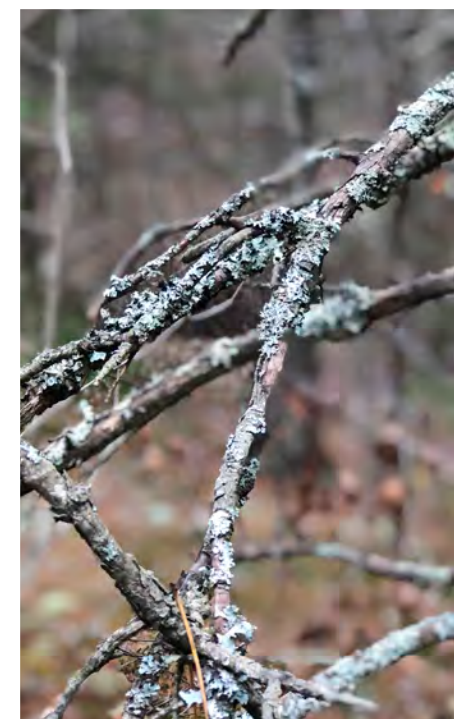
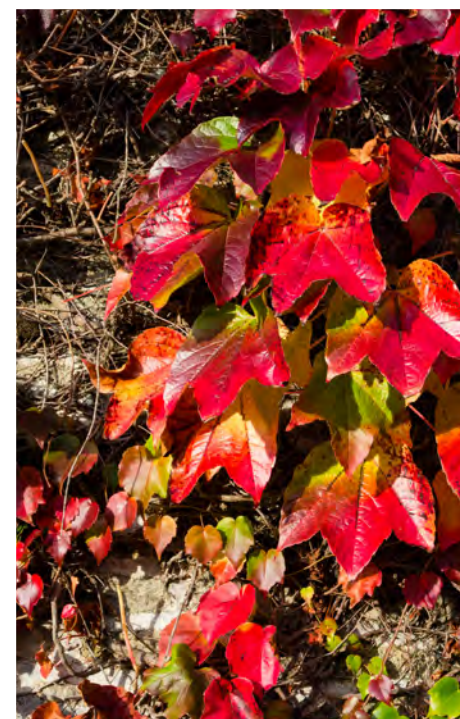
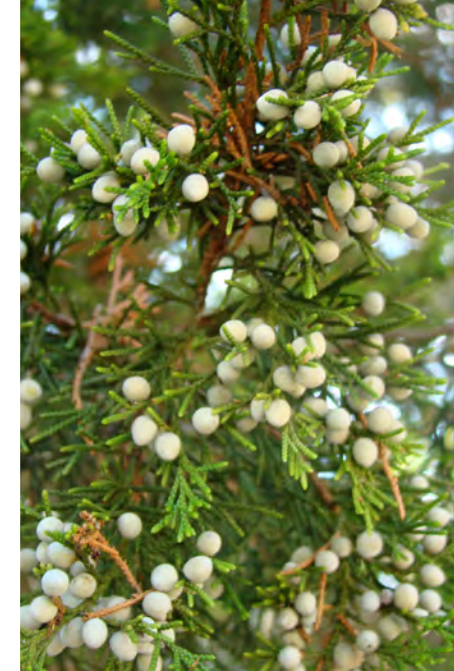
Late winter and early spring might not seem like ideal times to forage in your own yards and outdoor spaces for supplies, but a dormant garden is filled with all sorts of unexpected materials that can be used to create a beautiful arrangement. All you need is a good dose of imagination. Search for interesting foliage that still lingers in your perennial beds—seed heads, berries, rose hips and boughs of evergreens—both needled and broad-leaved. Paula's list can get you started.



Photos courtesy of Jane Cowles

- **Hellebores**
- ✂️ • **Eastern red cedar**, loblolly, short-leaf, long-leaf, jack pine, Virginia pine—beautiful drape adds body
- **Lichen-covered stems** or twigs with attached pinecones
- ✂️ • **Bare stems of dogwood**, *Cornus florida*
- ✂️ • **Cotinus obovata**, or smoke tree
- **Rose hips**—all roses make hips, but ramblers tend to produce the largest. They are normally yellow or bright orange.
- ✂️ • **Hypericum**, or St. John's Wort
- **Alchemilla mollis**, or Lady's mantle—clumping perennial is a great filler for floral arrangements
- **Conifers**
- **Chamaecyparis**, or, false cypress, especially "Golden Mop"
- **Eucalyptus** – adds texture, scent, and a beautiful blue-gray green to an arrangement
- ✂️ • **Ilex verticillata**, or winterberry—an important food source for birds in colder months, it gives a bright red pop of color
- **Ornamental cabbage**—long-lasting and a great filler
- **Rosemary**—fragrance and color of this evergreen herb makes it a favorite
- **Viburnum tinus**, or laurustinus
- **Viburnum dentatum**, or Southern arrowwood

 Native Species





Anne Spencer, Harlem Renaissance poet, gardener and pioneering activist, was born Anne Bethel Bannister in 1882 on a farm in rural Henry County, Virginia. Homeschooled by her mother until she was 11, she was then sent to boarding school for a more formal education at her father's insistence. Arriving at Virginia Theological Seminary and College (now Virginia University of Lynchburg), Spencer spent six years studying to become a teacher and graduated in 1899 after giving the valedictory address. During those formative years, she met her future husband, Edward Spencer.



Prior to her literary success, Spencer spent 20 years as librarian at Dunbar, the all-Black high school in Lynchburg, where she generously supplemented the few books allotted the library with books from her own collection. She found time to teach, co-found the Lynchburg Chapter of the NAACP, tend a garden, and raise three children, all the while keeping a welcoming home, hosting a myriad of intellectuals and activists and being the wife of the first African American parcel postman.

POET. ACTIVIST.
GARDENER.

Stories by Katherine Fulghum Knopf, Roanoke Valley Garden Club

ANNE SPENCER



James Weldon Johnson

A pair of opposites—she, the sovereign of the written word; Edward, a natural in math and science—they tutored each other in the subjects of their strengths and eventually fell in love. They married in 1901, and

All photos unless otherwise indicated are courtesy of the Anne Spence House & Garden Museum

together they built a home at 1313 Pierce Street in Lynchburg. Anne had discovered a love of poetry while at the Virginia Theological Seminary, and it was a talent she continued to hone. On a 1919 visit to Lynchburg, James Weldon Johnson discovered the breadth and depth of Spencer's poetic prowess. Johnson, a key figure in the Harlem Renaissance, was a distinguished lawyer, educator, civil rights activist and diplomat who served as executive secretary of the NAACP. He was impressed enough with Spencer's body of work that he introduced her to

his own editor, H.L. Mencken. Thanks to the support of Johnson and Mencken, her literary career was launched. At 40, Anne Spencer published her first poem. Meanwhile, the Spencers' home was evolving into a literary and intellectual hub. There, she and Edward hosted great minds of the day—writers, political figures, dignitaries and activists—as well as friends and family. Spencer's literary career became well-established in the 1920s and '30s, during which time she was firmly ensconced as a major figure of the Harlem Renaissance, despite living in Virginia. Spencer's work contains

references to biblical and mythical worlds, as well as themes of nature. A celebrated gardener, the garden that she and Edward continually shaped is inextricably woven into her life and provides significant inspiration for her poetry. She wrote about racism and segregation—topics she grappled with in the deeply divided South—but her writing also reflects a profound connection to the natural world. More than 30 of her poems were published during her lifetime, which secured her position as a major figure of the Black literary and cultural movement in the 1920s and 30s. She is the first Virginian and one of three African

American women included in the highly influential *Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry*. Anne Spencer died at 93 on July 27, 1975. She and Edward, who died in 1964, are buried side-by-side in the family plot at Forest Hills Cemetery in Lynchburg. Some of her papers reside at the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia. Her correspondence with James Weldon Johnson is part of the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection at the Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscripts Library at Yale University.



Photo by Roger Foley

1313 PIERCE STREET HAS BECOME ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST SIGNIFICANT GARDEN RESTORATIONS, THANKS TO TWO VISIONARY GCV CLUB MEMBERS.



“Do you have a few minutes? There is something I think you should see.”



Shortly after marrying Anne in 1901, Edward Spencer bought the lot at 1313 Pierce Street in Lynchburg and set about building a house to raise their family. Edward Spencer was the city's first African American parcel postman, a position that happened to afford him a serendipitous side business.

As he traveled the Lynchburg neighborhoods on his delivery route, he noticed a city filled with discarded building materials of all shapes and sizes. He'd find wood along street curbs, flooring in vacant lots, and windows tossed aside—all perfectly usable. What was deemed disposable to some was worth salvaging to Edward. Over the years much of what he collected made its way into additions and improvements as the Spencer family grew.

Some found their way into Edankraal, the backyard cottage he designed for Anne. The word is a mashup of *Ed* for Edward,

an for Anne, and *kraal*, the Afrikaan word for enclosure. She retreated there to write, gleaning inspiration from the garden that grew around her. Both Edward and Anne infused creativity throughout their property, inside and out: Edward fashioned a rambling pergola from reclaimed lumber, as well as plant supports and fences, and Anne planted the roses that would eventually engulf them. Theirs was a collaboration that resulted in a lifetime of beautiful outcomes.

Anne spoke lovingly of her garden: “This small garden is half my world,” she once remarked. Their home offered a welcoming, creative environment that encouraged invention, conversation and education, as well as visitors. Artists, poets, political activists, dignitaries and businessmen and women were frequent guests for meals or overnight stays and lively conversation and debate.

AN END IS A BEGINNING

Wandering the garden today evokes images of Anne and Edward's era, when they entertained the likes of Langston Hughes, W.E.B. DuBois, Sterling A. Brown, Dolly Allen Mason, Zora Neal Hurston, H.L. Mencken and Gwendolyn Brooks. It was this kinetic energy of constant visitors and political changes that shaped Spencer and her garden design.

Edward died in the mid-1960s. By then Anne was in her 80s, and the gardens fell into disrepair. After her death in 1975, her three children—Bethel, Alroy and Chauncey—couldn't imagine selling this remarkable homestead that represented the soul and legacy of their parents. Papers, journals, poems written on seed catalogs, phone numbers penned on the phone booth wall, as well as antiques and art filled the house. The gardens needed a complete restoration.



ENTER MINA WOOD

When Mina Wood, a member of the Lynchburg Garden Club, saw the Spencer Garden in the early 1980s, it was overgrown—and ripe for restoring. Mina knew just the person who could handle the project. Her good friend Jane Baber White, a talented landscape designer and member of neighboring Hillside Garden Club, would be perfect for the job. Mina called Jane with this enticement: “Do you have a few minutes this morning? There is something I think you should see. It's a garden...”

As she walked the gravel paths, Jane says the garden spoke to her. “I knew this would be my life's work,” she reflected in a recent conversation. Although Jane and Mina lived in the same town, neither ever knew Anne Spencer. Now touring the garden, Jane saw restoration possibilities come alive. With the bones of the landscape still visible and some of Anne's original plants evident, it was a story that clearly spoke of Anne Spencer, her life and her work.

BUILDING SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS

Jane knew undertaking the garden restoration required time, talent and treasure. Much of what Edward had built from salvaged material was decaying, so recreating the bird houses, the pond, pergolas, and fences, along with rescuing as many of Anne's original plantings as was

possible, meant stepping back and formulating a careful, long-term plan. The house was already designated a Virginia Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, so any work would have to meet strict standards for a historic site.

The garden is preserved today thanks to Mina's brilliant connection, Jane's direction, and the hard work of many collaborations and partnerships—and the blessing of the Spencer family. Hillside Garden Club raised funds and twice won the GCV's Common Wealth Award, specifically designated for Anne Spencer Garden restorations.

The first, awarded in 1985, restored the lattice gate and fencing at the garden entrance, planted shrubs and trees on the boundaries of the garden, and resurfaced the driveway leading to the garden. Later, in 2009, a second award resurfaced garden paths, replaced the arbor and pergola posts and rebuilt the pond that contains a unique fountain, affectionately named “Prince Ebo,” given to the Spencers by W.E.B. DuBois. Both Anne and Edward's spirit and energy are evident throughout the property. A prominent example is Anne's love of color. The restorations retained robin's egg blue—Anne's favorite—that weaves throughout the house and the garden, Edankraal and the kitchen trim.

Anne papered a kitchen wall with orange nasturtiums. Over that, in elegant script, she penned “A Lover Muses,” a poem she wrote to express the splendor of nasturtiums and, perhaps, in broader terms, it's also a sensual, philosophical elegy to beauty. This favorite flower once carpeted Anne's

garden and, in an ode to this flower, her eloquent, melodic word choices reveal the deep thinker she was.

The Spencer legacy is vibrantly felt in the house and garden that the family and the museum foundation maintain. It is a marvel and a gift. The Anne Spencer Garden is the only known preserved and restored African American garden in the United States. That alone is a reason to visit.

LEFT: Mina Wood and Katherine Knopf.

Photo by Edie Hessberg

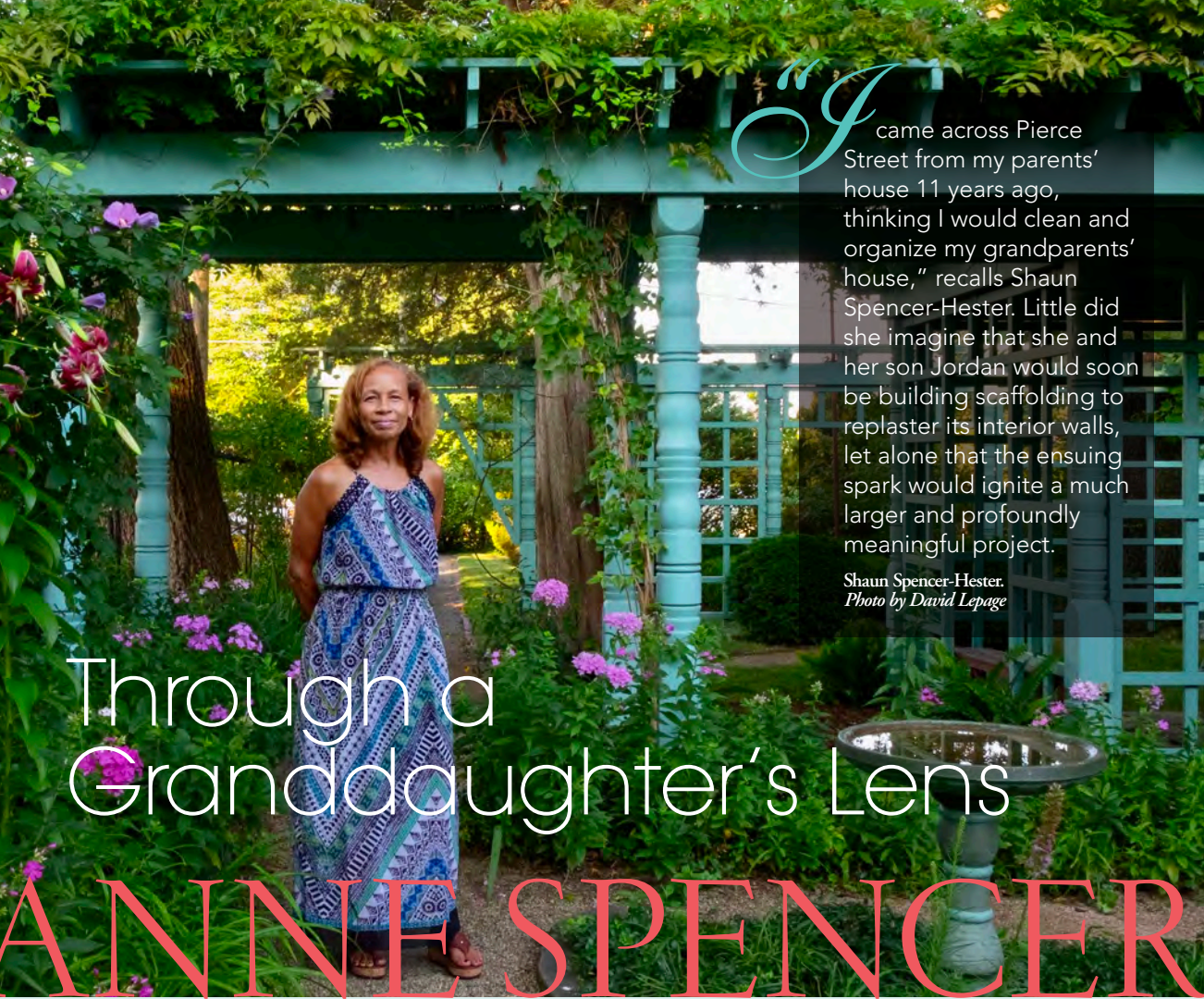
BELOW: Photo by Roger Foley

Open for Historic Garden Week!

Included with the Lynchburg tour ticket

Visit VAGardenWeek.org





I came across Pierce Street from my parents' house 11 years ago, thinking I would clean and organize my grandparents' house," recalls Shaun Spencer-Hester. Little did she imagine that she and her son Jordan would soon be building scaffolding to replaster its interior walls, let alone that the ensuing spark would ignite a much larger and profoundly meaningful project.

Shaun Spencer-Hester.
Photo by David Lepage

Through a Granddaughter's Lens

ANNE SPENCER

Shaun, a talented interior designer, worked magic on the 1903 house her grandfather built by hand. She made many repairs herself—or found a way to get them done. And in the process, she found her passion.

The house in Lynchburg was where Anne and Edward Spencer lived. Edward built it mostly by hand after the couple married. Edward and Anne died in 1965 and 1974, respectively, after living an remarkable life at 1313 Pierce Street.

Shaun soon embarked on a total rejuvenation of her grandparents' home, overseeing a comprehensive restoration which perfectly captures her "Dranny's" style and spirit. Each room is carefully curated, full of antiques and artifacts that tell her grandparents' story. Each detail—inside and out—provides a window into their lives and passions.

Shaun's eye for detail, resourcefulness and creativity are evident in large and small details throughout the house. She devised a process to take a remnant of old wallpaper, photograph it and hire an artist to reprint the images on paper which she then hung. She lovingly rehabbed and restored antiques back to mint condition.

Her goal is to share this extraordinary home—its garden and the people who built and nurtured it—with others. "My time here is a labor of love and dedication to family, history and preservation," she says.

In the dining room Shaun notes, "my grandmother favored Asian influences." The Stickley dining room table and chairs are centered in the

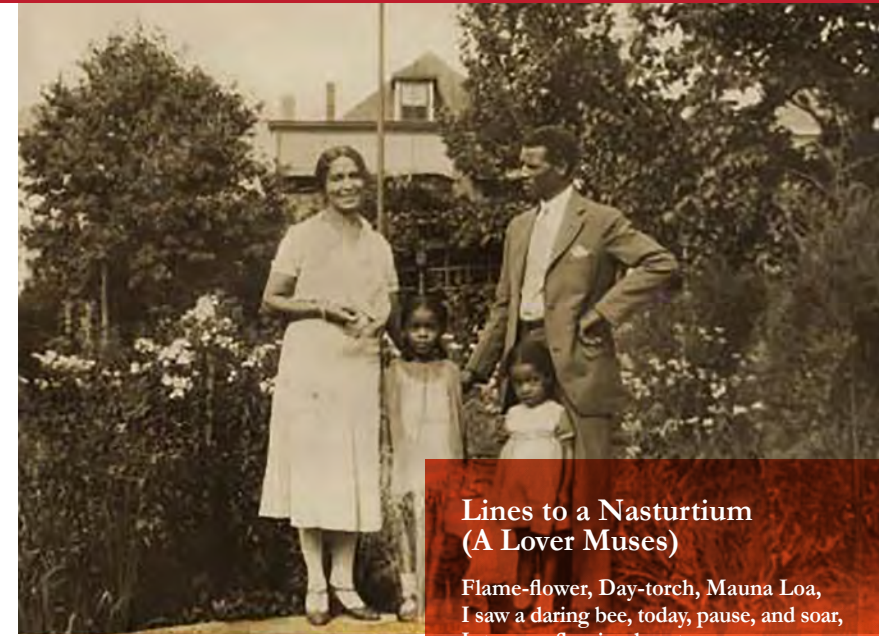
room; an Asian chest holds serving pieces and adds elegance and flair. Shaun says her grandmother "often wore beautiful silk loungewear in Asian motifs." The table is meticulously set with her china and stemware, all illuminated with light reflected from the chandelier overhead. Shaun mentions the chair rail and explains that her grandfather designed it with unique copper inserts. Radiator covers have a dual purpose: Edward expertly fashioned them to keep food in serving dishes warm throughout meals.

The sunroom, Shaun explains, was a later addition. A cuckoo clock with weights made from rocks hangs beside the fireplace where her grandparents' cook often filled a pot with a chicken and let it simmer over the fire. "This room was Anne Spencer's office," Shaun says. "I would find her here sitting in the armchair surrounded by papers." The room overlooks the garden and was, of course, built by Edward to exacting specifications. "She sat looking out the windows, a teacup, pencil and paper on a tray, always ready to write," recalls Shaun. She says a back staircase on the way to the kitchen "was her filing cabinet. She left one side open for walking and the other was stacked with her papers."

Anne Spencer had a cook and a laundress, which gave her time to write. In the evenings and on weekends, Edward and Anne both worked in the garden. "That was their quiet time together besides their Sunday drives," Shaun says.

Outside in the garden is Edankraal, the cottage Edward built for Anne. This "she shed" contains a large writing desk and a wall of black and white photographs that chronicled their busy lives.

When Shaun arrived 11 years ago, she remembers that every



Lines to a Nasturtium (A Lover Muses)

Flame-flower, Day-torch, Mauna Loa,
I saw a daring bee, today, pause, and soar,
Into your flaming heart;
Then did I hear crisp crinkled laughter
As the furies after tore him apart?
A bird, next, small and humming,
Looked into your startled depths and fled...

Surely, some dread sight, and dafter
Than human eyes as mine can see,
Set the stricken air waves drumming
In his flight.
Day-torch, Flame-flower, cool-hot
Beauty,

I cannot see, I cannot hear your fluty
Voice lure your loving swain,
But I know one other to whom you
are in beauty

Born in vain;
Hair like the setting sun,
Her eyes a rising star,
Motions gracious as reeds by Babylon, bar
All your competing;
Hands like, how like, brown lilies sweet,
Cloth of gold were fair enough to touch
her feet...

Ah, how the senses flood at my repeating,
As once in her fire-lit heart I felt the furies
Beating, beating.

—Anne Spencer

drawer she opened was full-to-the-brim with her grandmother's writings and papers. Knowing they needed to be preserved, she took her time sorting and cataloging. Anne Spencer was famous for her lists—flowers she wanted to plant, lines of poetry, and thoughts that came to mind. They were written on the backs of envelopes or scraps of paper. She saved *Better Homes and Gardens* magazines tagged with landscape plans she liked.

Many of her grandmother's papers, correspondence, and photographs now reside the Albert & Shirley Small Special Collections Library at The University of Virginia. Occasionally Shaun still runs across a poem or document that needs to be identified, which she carefully researches in an effort to correctly identify its time frame and origin.

Shaun's vision for the Anne Spencer House & Garden Museum continues to evolve. She serves on its board of directors and is its treasurer. With each new improvement, another idea emerges.

Pop's Chicken House, a nod to Edward's original chicken coop, is the latest addition to the garden and is in the development stage. It will offer a gathering space for visitors, a place to hold exhibits, much

needed office space and restrooms. On hot days, school children can participate in programs in the shaded green space outside and learn all about Anne Spencer, poet, gardener, activist and visionary.

All of this is possible because one devoted granddaughter, with a penchant for cleaning and organizing and a talent for art and design, is on a mission to preserve her grandmother's powerful legacy.



Nasturtium wallpaper with "Lines to a Nasturtium"

Daffodil Day

MARCH 29, 2022

Sharing the Secrets for Success

Don't miss Daffodil Day on March 29 at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden and hosted by the Garden Club of Virginia. Register at GCVirginia.org



Compiled and edited by Catherine Madden, Daffodil Day Chairman, and Karen Cauthen Ellsworth, Director of Historic Garden Week and Special Projects

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. As one of the nation's largest daffodil shows, award-winning daffodil specimens, spectacular floral designs, and eye-catching photography will be featured.

opens to the public from 2 to 5 p.m., after judging.

We reached out to Meredith Lauter, chair of GCV's Artistic Design Committee; Dana Parker, Sandy Geiger and Edie Hessberg, members of the Photography Committee; and Nancy McLaughlin, Daffodil Chair, for highlights of the upcoming show.

ARTISTIC DESIGN

What was your inspiration for creating the theme, *The British are Coming!* for Daffodil Day?

In addition, enjoy beauty and blooms courtesy of more than 50 acres at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, home to one of the 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

We are so excited that Paula Pryke will give an in-person floral design demonstration for GCV members and other fans of her work on May 12, 2022. Our Daffodil Day flower show schedule paves the way for her journey across the pond, celebrating iconic Brits through the ages.



Join GCV members and fellow daffodil enthusiasts on March 29 for Daffodil Day, returning 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, the day after the Annual Meeting.

THIS PAGE: Photo by Catriona Tudor Erler; OPPOSITE: Photos by Penny Dart

Is there an artistic style that you are using for the first time in this show's schedule?

Daffodil Day 2022 debuts two new artistic styles—*Casual Contemporary* and *Interpretive*. Art forms constantly advance, and new styles attract our interest and stretch our expertise. *Casual Contemporary* is young, fresh and vibrant, showcasing the individual beauty of each flower in a simple yet classic arrangement suitable for display at home.

Interpretive is a direct expression of theme or intent, communicating a specific message from artist to viewer. Both new styles provide creative latitude for the arranger and inspire engagement from the viewer.

How does the Artistic Design Committee decide which arrangement styles to select for each class?

The committee members possess incredible skills which they apply to each show, ensuring the schedule provides variety, innovation, challenge and education while advancing the mission of the GCV. Daffodil Day 2022 offers an environmentally inspired class



involving the use of alternatives to non-biodegradable floral foam. There are classes that include flora favored by pollinators and classes in Botanical Arts. In support of our accomplished judging program, there will be a challenge class just for judges.

Classes are also intended to encourage education and attract the public. Good examples are *A Sissinghurst Spring* class, which will welcome visitors at the show's entrance to an English castle garden. *Kapow!* will showcase the vibrant colors, textures, showstopping container treatments, and bold designs so characteristic of Paula Pryke, whose visit inspired the show's overall theme.

What's the story behind the plant invaders in the Artistic Design schedule?

Educational efforts are coordinated between the Artistic Design, Horticulture, Photography and Conservation committees to support and advance the mission of the GCV. We are working together to identify and increase awareness of plant invaders that can take over our landscapes and threaten the survival of other essential living things.

Kudzu is probably the most visually prominent example, with its disturbing, smothering habit. Other, less-conspicuous plants exhibit a similar crowding characteristic. Ten plant invaders will be exhibited to encourage visitors to refrain from adding

these species to their gardens and landscapes.

PHOTOGRAPHY

How did you match the type of image with the topics you want photography exhibitors to convey to carry out the British theme?

When thinking about the theme, we began by brainstorming obvious topics. *Still Life* became *A Tea for Two*. A landscape filled with daffodils looked like soldiers in a parade, so *Trooping of Colors* was born. A close-up of a single daffodil was so dazzling it inspired the *Crown Jewels*. And what better way to express the *Abstract* or *Special Effects* classes than with the Beatles song, *Lucy in The Sky with Diamonds*?

Your committee has held photography webinar workshops for GCV members recently. Are there any new techniques taught in those workshops that exhibitors can use in this show?

Yes, absolutely. Edits make a photograph pop, so those who have explored the editing workshops should not be afraid to use the techniques they learned freely and frequently. Entrants should look closely at their images and ask how, not whether, they can make it better.

HORTICULTURE

Daffodils bloom at different periods across our state. What is the best time to pick for exhibiting, and are there ways to hold the perfect bloom until the show date?

It can be tricky to know when to pick a bloom in preparation for showing. Knowing the color code for your cultivar is very helpful because some blooms may need a time to develop their assigned color. Picking a bloom right after it opens may not be what you want to do.



Giving it time to mature may give you the color you are looking for.

Weather can also play a role in the appropriate time to harvest. If wind, heavy rain or sleet are forecast, go ahead and gather blooms. Oddly, light snow can be beneficial. Wind can cause the perianth (petals) to dry and look "crepe-y." If you need to pick your blooms early, the best way to preserve them is in a dark, colder, moist place (a non-frost-free refrigerator, cool damp basement, or covered loosely with a plastic bag in a frost-free refrigerator). Lightly misting blooms can also keep them looking fresh and plump.

It is amazing the extremes daffodil exhibitors will go to keep their daffodils looking show-ready. When traveling with blooms, exhibitors often turn the air conditioning in



TOP: Photo by Sandy Geiger
ABOVE: Photo by Edie Hessberg





ABOVE: Photos by Penny Dart

their hotel rooms down to refrigerator temperatures to keep the blooms happy. So, be prepared to pack your winter pajamas and down coats so you can sleep!

For the bloom that needs to open to fill the class collection, folks have resorted to sun lamps to encourage flowers to unfurl, which is easier said than done. You will see exhibitors pressing the perianth between their thumb and forefinger to help “encourage” the bloom to look its best. All this babying is fun, and makes you feel a little like you are a member of the movie *Best in Show*.

Climate change has impacted our gardens. Some daffodils are sending up shoots as early as December. Often, they must pause as winter covers the warm, pre-winter growth. Fortunately, snow helps hydrate the bulbs beautifully.

Remember to water if we have a dry spring. While we are learning to be flexible, daffodils seem to handle the change in our weather patterns better than their growers. Eastern garden clubs may find their blooms peaking before Daffodil Day, and western parts of the state may have more blooms to display than they expected.

The horticulture schedule for daffodils is extensive. What are the most exhibited and the least exhibited classes and why?

The most entries are typically the single bloom classes, usually the ones that have been offered in GCV collections a couple of years prior. Newer daffodils are often large, strong cultivars which are easier to identify and find. There are some very challenging classes, such as the Eleanor Truax Harris Cup

and the Katherine Leadbeater Bloomer Award that require 24 and 25 perfect blooms, respectively. One of my favorite classes is the Louise Morris Goodwin Bowl, which comprises five varieties of American-bred daffodils. This beautiful award is attainable to all our members who have been growing GCV collections.

For members who want to get started exhibiting daffodils, what are some of the easiest and most rewarding daffodils to grow and show?

Ask someone in your club who knows what blooms have been successful in past shows in your area of our state. Starting with a single bloom, or a vase of three, would be the easiest way to enter as a novice. Just bring as many blooms as you can, and let the daffodil show volunteers help with identifying, staging and placement, because nothing is more fun than receiving a ribbon! We encourage everyone who is interested to participate. A show is a wonderful environment where everyone wants to help each other.

Daffodils are divided into 13 classifications. Which are favorites to grow and why?

Recently, there has been renewed interest in heirloom daffodils. Their splendor is unbeatable. They are often parents of many of our newer, larger blooms. Interest in these glorious blooms, that have survived so many years and are often found near old homesteads, reassures us that these beauties will be here for generations to come.



BRITISH TIDBITS AND FUN FACTS ABOUT DAFFODILS

PRINCESS DIANA'S NUPTIAL DRESS

became one of the most iconic wedding dresses of all time. Designed by a young British couple, the silk-taffeta gown with '80s era-defining puff sleeves and a 25-foot train, the longest in the history of royal wedding dresses, is the inspiration for a Cascade design on the Daffodil Day Artistic Design schedule.

According to Royal historian Hugo Vickers, **QUEEN ELIZABETH II SENDS SIGNALS** via the position of her ever-present purse. Moving the handbag from one hand to another means that Her Majesty is ready to conclude the meeting. Other signals include placing her purse on the table at dinner, apparently to signify she's ready to wrap it up. Putting it on the floor reportedly sends the ultimate SOS. “Rescue me, please!” Botanical Arts enthusiasts are tasked with creating an embellished purse suitable for The Queen.

CONSTANCE SPRY, the inspiration for one of the Artistic Design classes, was in her forties and had already had a career in nursing when she opened her first floral shop. Predating Paula Pryke's breakout by over 60 years, this first British floral phenom was asked to decorate the shop windows of a perfumery in 1929. Using what she referred to as “weeds,” the display included a clash of

hothouse beauties juxtaposed with hedgerow familiars. Brambles, clematis seed heads and kale were paired with chartreuse orchids in trailing arrangements. The display was such a hit that police had to control the spectators.

Calling all **HEIRLOOM DAFFODIL** enthusiasts.

The Horticulture schedule includes a class for entry of daffodils that were part of the very first GCV Test Collection in 1930. Label each bloom with its registration date or the year of its introduction. The winner will be judged on both the quality of the flowers and the number of varieties in the entry.

Floral designers understand that **ARRANGING WITH DAFFODILS REQUIRES AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP**, otherwise the whole arrangement will suffer the consequences. After cutting daffodils, condition them separately by allowing stems to soak in plain water for at least six hours before mixing with other plants in your arrangement. Daffodils give off a sap that can be deadly to other flowers, causing companions to droop and wither away. Their poisonous alkaloids can cause serious issues for dogs and other animals if ingested, too. If you are worried, consider planting them only in your front or side beds where wee ones and furry companions won't dig them up by accident.

Photo: Pexels



VIRGINIA IS A BIRDING PARADISE

Becoming a bird-watcher is easy.

With the conclusion of 2022's Great Backyard Bird Count earlier this month, the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society gathered important data about birds all over the country with the help of backyard birders and hobbyists. GCV members had the chance to participate in this important annual tradition. But forays into birding don't have to end there.

Bird-watching is easy and an engaging activity for all. You can even make an enjoyable science project for children out of bird-watching and counting. Examining bird behavior promotes conversations among the generations. What's the difference between a red-shouldered and a red-tailed hawk? Are the black-capped chickadees and titmice looking for seeds left in your coneflower heads? Are the cardinals after those sunflowers seeds that you might have put in your bird feeder? Who's the boss at your feeder? What's that Carolina wren making her house with?

For novices, check out the user-friendly birding app, Merlin. A partnership between Cornell and Audubon, it's easily downloadable on your cell phone. Merlin makes it easy to identify birds by sight and sound. Once identified, Merlin provides all sorts of interesting information about any given avian species. And if you have a photo of a bird but are struggling to

identify it, share the image with Merlin, and its Photo ID function will suggest possibilities.

If you are interested in bird-watching beyond your backyard, you can visit one of Virginia's Top Ten Bird-Watching Spots, as chronicled in *Birdwatcher's Digest*. And don't let winter deter you. Across the state—from the Chesapeake shoreline of Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge rife with waterfowl, to the mountains of Highland County's Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail, where hawks and eagles soar—you can see firsthand the vast variety of Virginia's avian life. Access the list of top 10 spots by Googling "Birdwatcher's Digest Magazine Virginia's top birdwatching hotspots."

Another resource is the Virginia Bird and Wildlife Trail (VBWT), an organized network of outdoor sites compiled by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. The VBWT highlights the best places to see birds and wildlife in the Commonwealth. Walk a nature trail, paddle a river or enjoy a scenic overlook to experience

Indigo bunting.
Photo by Susan Killian, Pixabay



Virginia's wealth of natural diversity, ranging from brown pelicans and bottlenose dolphins along our Atlantic Coast to bald eagles and falcons in the Appalachian Mountains. With 400 species of birds, plus hundreds of butterfly, dragonfly and other invertebrate species, it's easy to understand why Virginia is a premier destination for birding and wildlife viewing. *DWR.Virginia.Gov/VBWT/*

—Laura Francis, *The Hunting Creek Garden Club, Conservation and Beautification Committee member*



The largest bald eagle nest ever recorded weighed 6,000 pounds and measured nearly 10 feet in diameter and almost 20 feet deep. On average they weigh hundreds of pounds. Photo by Danawacac from Pixabay

LEFT: The cardinal is the state bird of Virginia. Photo by Chris F. Pexels



CONSERVATION & BEAUTIFICATION CHALLENGE IS ON!

Share your backyard bird list and/or photos in GCV's Conservation & Beautification 2022 Challenge! Email them by March 31 to conservation@gcvirginia.org with "C&B Challenge" clearly indicated in the subject line, along with your name and garden club in the body of the email. Then stay tuned. Some will be shared in an upcoming issue of *Membership News*.



Marbled godwits are fast-moving shore birds. Photo by Jen Kindell from Pixabay

BIRDS LOVE OUR STATE PARKS

In addition to offering myriad recreational opportunities, Virginia's 41 state parks provide unparalleled opportunities for the seasoned bird-watcher and those new to the hobby. Few places can match the state's abundance and variety of birds. From the tiny ruby-throated hummingbird to the 50-inch-long tundra swan, everyone can be sure to find a favorite feathered friend in the Commonwealth. There are a plethora of state parks within the GCV's six districts that make terrific

bird-watching sites. Below just a few are listed. Check out dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/birding for more information on state parks that offer superlative birding.

DISTRICT 1: SAILOR'S CREEK BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK, RICE

Lots of species call Sailor's Creek home—from meadow-larks to kestrels and northern harriers, cormorants, great blue herons and indigo buntings. And that's just the beginning. Its nearly 400 acres are rife with low-lying shrubs and vegetation, ideal for birdwatching.

DISTRICT 2: SHENANDOAH RIVER STATE PARK,

The Shenandoah River is a corridor for migrating warblers in the spring and fall. Saw-whet owls also migrate through the area. Birds aplenty are at Shenandoah River State Park, with nearly 100 different species found at different times of the year.

DISTRICT 3: BELLE ISLE STATE PARK, LANCASTER

Offering 10 miles of walking trails, Belle Isle is a wonderful destination for identifying songbirds. This 733-acre park is heavily wooded with walking trails providing access to the Rappahannock River. Summer months bring tanagers, blue grosbeaks, indigo buntings and orchard orioles; yellow-throated warblers congregate

in the large sycamore trees near the river's edge.

DISTRICT 4: BREAKS INTERSTATE PARK, BREAKS

A popular springtime breeding ground for warblers, Breaks Park, which spans southeast Kentucky and southwest Virginia, is also home to bald eagles, falcons, hawks and a variety of waterfowl that enjoy its lakes and ponds.

DISTRICT 5: LEESYLVANIA STATE PARK, WOODBRIDGE

Leesylvania State Park is along the tidal portion of the Potomac River in northern Virginia. Migrant species take advantage of the river shoreline, surrounding woods and field habitat. It's home to more than 150 bird species.

DISTRICT 6: KIPTOPEKE STATE PARK, CAPE CHARLES

Located on the southern tip of Virginia's Eastern Shore, Kiptopeke State Park is in the middle of the Atlantic Flyway. Raptors, songbirds and butterflies stop here to feed and rest before making the long journey across the Chesapeake Bay.

—Madeline Mayhood, *The James River Garden Club*

Northern saw-whet owl. Photo by Chris Tobman from Pixabay



snips

NEWS FROM CLUBS & COMMITTEES

GCV DISTRICT 1

The James River Garden Club

RICHMOND

The JRGC's annual Greens Workshop & Sale was a rousing success. Held in early December at Elsie Bemiss's lovely home, the event featured a number of creatively potted narcissus and amaryllis in vintage containers—along with myrtle topiaries and note cards and pads courtesy of Nell O'Neil's artistic talent. Members brought buckets of Christmas greens and berries along with dozens of repurposed containers, which they then turned into festive, holiday arrangements that were donated to residents of the Virginia Home. The next evening, Elsie and her husband, Sam, once again opened their doors to JRGC members for the club's annual Christmas party. The Greens Workshop & Sale and cocktail party are organized by the JRGC's talented and hardworking Ways & Means Committee and bring smiles and Christmas cheer to all.

—Madeline Mayhood



Club members Lissy Bryan and Blanche Toms at JRGC's Christmas Greens Workshop in December. Photo by Nell O'Neil

GCV DISTRICT 2

Albemarle Garden Club

CHARLOTTESVILLE

Wedding flowers found a second life through the Share Your Joy program. Club member Merry Thomasson was inspired to partner with Charlottesville florist Tourterelle and AGC to offer brides the option to donate their flowers to local charities after the wedding. Merry forged a second partnership with



Members of NRGCC at the Governor's Mansion in Richmond during Youngkin's inaugural weekend in January. Photo courtesy of Stephanie Broadwater

GCV DISTRICT 6

Nansemond River Garden Club

SUFFOLK

The call came over the Thanksgiving holiday from Glenn Youngkin's Inaugural Committee: The Governor-elect was requesting the Nansemond River Garden Club to do the floral designs for his inauguration weekend. We gladly accepted. Since this wasn't our first invitation (we also did flowers for McAuliffe's inauguration), we understood the requirements and short time frame.

Work involved creating floral designs, selecting containers, gathering and conditioning plant material from members' yards and ordering needed flowers. The Inaugural Committee doesn't have many requirements, but their one specific request was color.

Our group arrived at the Capitol in a convoy of six vehicles loaded to the brim with supplies, flowers and foliage. First Lady-elect Suzanne Youngkin was one of the visitors to our workroom. She was bursting with enthusiasm, excitement and gratitude as she watched us hard at work. The NRGCC is proud to have participated in the 2022 gubernatorial inauguration.

—Stephie Broadwater



TOP: Armed with tools and smiles, AGC members prepare for a fall workday in the garden at the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library

BOTTOM: Members put the finishing touches on an arrangement. Photos courtesy of The Augusta Garden Club



AGC member Tracey Hedrick and Brian McCarthy, Tourterelle's operations director, with donated wedding flowers waiting for a second life.

UVA Volunteer Director LaDelle Gray to have those flowers delivered to patients at UVA hospitals. Thanks to the generosity of Tourterelle owner Lucia Evans-Morse and Operations Director Brian McCarthy, the flowers were "rescued" from wedding venues. LaDelle also provided more than 500 vases. Over eight Sundays this fall a team met in front of Tourterelle, set up card tables, grabbed clippers, and began creating approximately 200 arrangements. Members admired the array of flowers, played with color combinations, and marveled at the transformation of taking centerpieces, floral arches and bouquets and turning them into a small, heartfelt gift. In total, the fall Share Your Joy program prepared over 1,350 arrangements for "anyone needing a smile!"—patients, nurses, staff or families. It has been a gratifying experience to lift hearts to those in need.

—Nancy Inman

The Augusta Garden Club

STAUNTON

In November, members headed to the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library. They arrived with gloves and rakes in hand for a fall garden cleanup. The property is a GCV restoration site. In December members delivered flower arrangements to 34 individuals and seven nursing home/assisted-living facilities throughout the community. It is a club tradition to share good cheer during the holiday season to those in need. In preparation for this, two floral-design workshops were held for new club members to share arranging knowledge and holiday spirit.

—Deneen Brannock

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Timber Press continues to publish the most astounding collection of titles for garden lovers and anyone impassioned about the natural world. From lush, coffee table titles on destination landscapes or botanical arts to hard-core gardening books, Timber titles are worth exploring. Visit timberpress.com for 20 percent off purchases from their website. In the meantime, check out this collection of recently published books:



The Beginner's Guide to Growing Great Vegetables

BY LORENE EDWARDS FORKNER • 224 PP

Vegetable gardening has enjoyed a huge surge in popularity over the past two years, but it still remains intimidating to some who are afraid to take the plunge. Thanks to expert gardener Lorene Edwards Forkner, the concept is demystified and made do-able to even the most inexperienced wannabe. A former *Horticulture* magazine editor who now writes books along with a garden column for the *Seattle Times*, Forkner dispenses trustworthy advice and shares all the information you need to create a thriving garden—from facts about soil and sun to tips on fertilizing, mulching and watering. She's also included regional planting charts, which show what to plant when, and a month-by-month planner takes you from January through December.

Botanical Art Techniques

BY THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF BOTANICAL ARTISTS, EDITED BY CAROL WOODIN & ROBIN A. JESS • 416 PP

In this definitive guide, the experts at the American Society of Botanical Artists offer step-

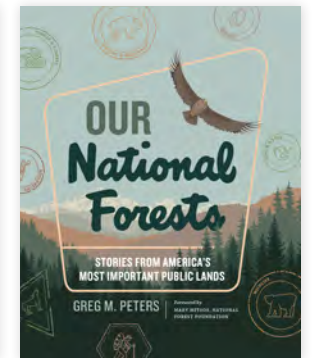


by-step projects that move from introductory to advanced—so any level of artist can build on acquired skills. It's the most thorough how-to available on every major technique of botanical artistry. Helpful tutorials cover watercolor, graphite, colored pencil, vellum, egg tempera, oils, pen and ink and printmaking. Filled with more than 900 photographs and stunning examples of finished art by the best contemporary botanical artists, *Botanical Art Techniques* is the authoritative manual on this exquisite art form.

The Hummingbird Handbook

BY JOHN SHEWEY • 240 PP

Nearly everyone loves the company of hummingbirds, not only for their beauty, but also for their role as pollinators. And among bird lovers, they inspire an unmistakable sense of devotion and awe. Brimming with astonishing facts, practical advice and important ecological information, *The Hummingbird Handbook* is a must-have guide to attracting, understanding and protecting hummingbirds. From advice on feeders to planting and landscaping techniques that will have your garden whirring with tiny wings, lifelong birder John Shewey provides all you need to know to entice these delightful creatures. An



identification guide makes them easy to spot in the wild, with stunning photographs, details on plumage variations and range maps showing habitats and migration patterns.

National Forests: Stories from America's Most Important Public Lands

BY GREG M. PETERS • 280 PP

This complete look at America's national forests—their triumphs, challenges, controversies and vital programs—is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of America's most important public lands. Across 193 million acres of forests, mountains, deserts, watersheds and grasslands, national forests provide a multitude of uses as diverse as America itself. They welcome 170 million visitors each year to hike, bike, paddle, ski, fish and hunt. But "the people's lands" offer more than just recreation. Lost habitats are recovered, timber is harvested and endangered wildlife is protected as part of the Forest Service's enduring mission. With both historic and personal references, *Our National Forests* offers a practical guide to encourage conscientious, environmental stewardship for all to follow.

All photos courtesy of Timber Press

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Whether it's the inspiring gardens, the architecture, the history or the Instagram-worthy flower arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members, and with 28 tours to choose from, Historic Garden Week in Virginia offers something for everyone. The only statewide house and garden tour in the nation, this annual springtime ritual includes access to private properties in communities large and small, many open to the public for the first time.

There are numerous ways to organize your Historic Garden Week trip. To plan by region or day of the week, please visit VAGardenWeek.org

We are excited to offer 128 private properties as the focus for this spring's tours. We hope these categories are also helpful in your planning:



Southern Magnolia

History Lovers

- James River Plantations
- Yorktown
- Fairfax
- Roanoke-Fincastle

Water Views

- Virginia Beach
- Gloucester
- Northern Neck

Art and Architecture

- Richmond: The Cottrell House
- Northern Neck

Floral Design or Demonstrations

- Fredericksburg
- Lynchburg
- Williamsburg

Garden Lovers

- Richmond: Rothesay Circle
- Orange County
- Albemarle-Charlottesville

Walking Tours

- Old Town Alexandria
- All three Richmond tours
- Fredericksburg
- Norfolk
- Leesburg
- Staunton

Shuttles

- Gloucester
- Richmond: The Cottrell House
- Northern Neck

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 29 | Daffodil Day, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, *Richmond*
- April 4 | Photography Workshop, Lightroom Classic, KVH, *Richmond*
- April 5 | Poe Museum Presentation, *Richmond*
- April 11 | Photography Workshop, Lightroom Classic, KVH, *Richmond*
- April 22 | Stratford Hall Presentation, *Stratford*
- April 23-30 | Historic Garden Week
- May 10-11 | GCV Annual Meeting, Hosted by Three Chopt Garden Club, *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 | Symposium 2022, Science Museum of Virginia, *Richmond*
- Oct 18-20 | GCV Board of Governors, *Roanoke*
- Nov 3 | Conservation Forum



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