

THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA



VOL LXII, NO. 2, JUNE 2017

*Journal*



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.

## From The Editor

When we think of landscapes, so many of us are conditioned to envision, as part of that landscape, vast expanses of carefully manicured single-species lawns. While these expanses may invoke feelings of peace and beauty, we almost never stop to think how they may be affecting populations of fauna we know and love. Birds, bees, and all kinds of small animals depend upon varied plant populations that we often call weeds. Commercial, industrial and residential developments frequently displace or destroy wild habitats in favor of human endeavor. You can join with Virginia Working Landscapes (Page 10) to learn about this important issue.

As warmer weather turns to summer hot, may we all be blessed with the whistle of a nearby bob-white quail and the late-night conversation of whippoorwills.

Thank you for reading the *Journal*. We welcome your articles.

Write to us at [journal@gcvirginia.org](mailto:journal@gcvirginia.org).

Submission guidelines may be found on the GCV website.

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## *The Garden Club of Virginia Journal*

***The Garden Club of Virginia Journal***  
(USPS 574-520, ISSN 0431-0233) is  
published four times a year for members  
by the GCV, 12 East Franklin St.,  
Richmond, VA 23219. Periodical postage  
paid in Richmond, VA. Single issue price,  
\$5.00.

Copy and ad deadlines are:

January 15 for the March issue

April 15 for the June issue

July 15 for the September issue

October 15 for the December issue

***Email copy to the Editor and advertising  
to the Ad Chairman***

### **President of the Garden Club of Virginia:**

Nina Mustard

### **Journal Editor:**

Karla MacKimmie

8505 Lees Ridge Road

Warrenton, VA 20186

Phone: (540) 341-3432

Email: [journal@gcvirginia.org](mailto:journal@gcvirginia.org)

### **Journal Advertising Chairman:**

Penny Dart

9174 Harts Mill Road

Warrenton, VA 20186

Phone: (540) 347-5138

Email: [journalads@gcvirginia.org](mailto:journalads@gcvirginia.org)

Vol. LXII, No. 2

Printed on recycled paper by

Carter Printing Company

Richmond, VA



## ON THE COVER...

The Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula hosts the GCV's 75th Lily Show this month, commemorated by their own Gwynn Litchfield in her joyful rendering of an oriental lily.

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Kent-Valentine House

Phone: (804) 643-4137 Fax: (804) 644-7778

Email: [director@gcvirginia.org](mailto:director@gcvirginia.org)

Historic Garden Week Office

Phone: (804) 644-7776 Fax: (804) 644-7778

Email: [historicgardenweek@verizon.net](mailto:historicgardenweek@verizon.net)

[www.VAGardenWeek.org](http://www.VAGardenWeek.org)

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## Massie Medal Awarded to Dorothy Holden Bumgardner

by Linda Consolvo, Massie Medal Committee Chairman  
The Nansemond River Garden Club

**D**orothy Holden Bumgardner was awarded the Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement on May 17, 2017, at the 97th Garden Club of Virginia Annual Meeting, hosted by the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club in Fredericksburg.

Deedy, a member of the Augusta Garden Club since 1979, has never wavered in her willingness to serve in whatever capacity asked of her, whether within her club or at the state level. Her tireless dedication, wisdom and grace have provided guidance for her club and its community projects, including the implementation of the New Library Landscape Project, as well as the Tree Planting Project along Route 275. Deedy has held dozens of positions in her club, from slides chairman to Historic Garden Week chairman to president. Ever a team player, Deedy served as her club's second vice president immediately after her tenure as this organization's president.

Deedy devotedly served the GCV as president (2004-06), GCV treasurer and restoration committee treasurer, restoration chairman and nominations chairman. During her presidency, projects such as a new Strategic Plan and the approval of partnerships with Jamestown 2007 and the National Park Service for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail were implemented. To quote GCV Landscape Architect Will Rieley, "what especially stands out is her willingness to drop everything at a moment's notice and head to where she is needed around the commonwealth." Deedy is recognized by her club as "a born leader whose sound judgment, dedication and sense of humor have been a blessing to all who know her." 🌸



*Deedy Bumgardner (4th from left)  
and family*



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## de Lacy Gray Award for Conservation

by Lesie Leake

GCV Conservation and Beautification Award Chairman  
Three Chopt Garden Club

The Garden Club of Virginia awarded the 2017 de Lacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation to Heidi James of the Lynchburg Garden Club at the Annual Meeting in Fredericksburg on May 17.

Many cities have a hidden gem, and Lynchburg's is Heidi James. A long-time member of the Lynchburg Garden Club, she is recognized for many achievements, most central, her unrelenting passion for and tireless pursuit of historical preservation and conservation.

Chief among these accomplishments is the removal of a derelict iron bridge from the James River. The bridge was swept loose and into the river during a flood in 1985 where it remained, rusting and collecting debris, for 25 years. Removing the bridge would be expensive, difficult and dangerous. In 2011, engineers working on an unrelated project cleared vegetation and built a temporary road between the James River and railroad tracks. Heidi James and the Lynchburg Garden Club leapt into action, seizing the opportunity to combine efforts. They involved city, state and Liberty University officials. The unsightly, dangerous bridge was removed and the banks and view shed of the James River vastly improved.

Heidi held numerous positions in local and statewide organizations. She served as chairman and executive director of the Lynchburg Historical Foundation, past president of the Lynchburg Garden Club, and the historian for Garden Club of Virginia. She wrote a history of the GCV's Conservation and Beautification Committee and contributed a well-researched article on the John Tradescant stained glass window, GCV's gift to Oxford University, to the *Journal*.

First awarded in 1965, this memorial to de Lacy Thompson Gray was created by the Dolley Madison Garden Club. It is presented to an individual member or a member club of the Garden Club of Virginia in recognition of outstanding effort to further the knowledge of our natural resources and to encourage their wise use.

In recognition of her continuous conservation efforts and dedication to the Garden Club of Virginia, the Conservation and Beautification Awards Committee is proud to add Heidi James to the exemplary list of winners of the de Lacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation. 🌸



Heidi James, with husband, Blitz, and son, John.

## Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award 2017

by Lesie Leake

GCV Conservation and Beautification Awards Chairman  
Three Chopt Garden Club

The Petersburg Garden Club, long known for its role in conservation, received the Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award for their Lee Park Wildflower and Restoration Project at the Garden Club of Virginia Annual Meeting. The \$8,000 grant will be used in the conservation and rehabilitation of the 25-acre Wildflower and Bird Sanctuary in historic Lee Memorial Park and to develop demonstration gardens, herbivore enclosures and a plant rescue program. The grant guidelines will provide opportunities for local residents and students to participate in the restoration of this sensitive area within Lee Park.

The Petersburg Garden Club was founded in 1925 and joined the Garden Club of Virginia in 1932. During the 1930s, through a WPA project, PGC worked with local African-American women to establish a botanical preserve in the park. Species were identified, an herbarium collected, exquisite paintings executed by Bessie Niemeyer Marshall, specimens planted and nurtured, and more than 10 miles of paths developed. The park was closed in 1952 and the great legacy of the 1930s was nearly forgotten. In the past three decades, the PGC has once again made Lee Park the center of its activities, working hard to build on the legacy of the 1930s. The park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Established at the 2009 GCV Annual Meeting, the Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award is given to fund the implementation of a conservation project that will serve as a catalyst for community action. It is a monetary award for natural resource conservation or environmental protection within the commonwealth.

The Garden Club of Virginia Conservation and Beautification Awards Committee is honored to award the 2017 Bessie Bocock Carter Award to the Petersburg Garden Club for a worthy project that is certain to educate, enlighten and delight all who visit Lee Memorial Park in Petersburg. ❁



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## The GCV Centennial Logo

by Anne Cross, GCV Centennial Committee  
Chairman  
The Ashland Garden Club

The Garden Club of Virginia Centennial logo was introduced at the Annual Meeting in May. This is another major step in our celebration and a sign that 2020 is not that far away! Members of the Centennial Committee worked with GCV's art designer, Dale Edmundson, with the intent to honor traditions while showing movement into the future. The design chosen does this beautifully.

As Dale says, "For nearly 100 years, there has been one constant in GCV history, one that always leads the way to events, exhibitions and functions: the Green Arrow. It seems fitting for that Green Arrow to lead into the second century. In the new Centennial logo, the green arrow prominently spans across 100 years and into the next. The GCV logo sits atop the 100 years we celebrate. The two zeros in the 100 represent the first and second centuries and the green area where they overlap represents the time of transition from the first century into the next. The circle is repeated as the dark green background to show that history is part of the future and that cycle is never-ending." 🌱

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## Common Wealth Award Nominations Announced

*by Candy Carden, Common Wealth Award Committee Chairman  
The Garden Club of the Northern Neck*

The Common Wealth Award Committee is excited to announce six finalists for the 2017 Common Wealth Award. The Garden Club of Virginia established this award in 1979 to provide annual grants to fund community projects of member clubs in the areas of conservation, beautification, horticulture, preservation or education. The two-word name Common Wealth was chosen to describe the “wealth” that is “common” to all Virginians.

Garden Club of Virginia member clubs will vote on the projects at the Board of Governors meeting in October and grant winners will be announced then. The finalists under consideration are as follows:

### *Nature Plant Landscaping for the Fred W. Beazley River Academy at Paradise Creek Nature Park*

*Submitted by  
The Elizabeth River Garden Club*

Unlike most parks, Paradise Creek Nature Park is a unique model for urban river restoration showing how government, industry and a committed community can create a nature park from a once-polluted industrial area. This 40-acre site is located on Paradise Creek, a tributary of the Elizabeth River. The park, which is open and free to the public year round, is owned by the non-profit Elizabeth River Project and operated by the City of Portsmouth. Park programs educate more than 15,000 visitors each year, including 6,000 children from inner-city schools. The park features over two miles of handicapped-accessible nature trails, a canoe/kayak launch, an outdoor classroom, environmental art and a wetland footbridge.

The Elizabeth River Garden Club proposes providing native plants for a 6,500-square foot area surrounding the River Academy, an educational building set for completion in 2017. The building will provide indoor space for the Urban Park Ranger, a classroom, restrooms and educational displays. The plantings with educational signage will highlight the park’s natural environment with native trees, shrubs, perennials and grasses.

Surely this park that demonstrates conservation of our rivers and wetlands, and also teaches our children to care for them, is worthy of GCV support.

### *The Healing Grove at Boulder Crest Retreat*

*Submitted by  
Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club*

Boulder Crest Retreat, located in the Piedmont of northern Virginia, is the nation’s first privately funded, completely free treatment facility dedicated to our wounded warriors and their families. The retreat focuses on individual and family recovery from the traumas of war, and the loss of limbs and comrades on the battlefield.

The Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club proposes to continue our commitment to these remarkable individuals by planting a grove of trees that will create a soothing link between the lodges where warriors and their families stay during recovery and the walled garden already in place through the generosity of members of the club and



the community. Warriors and their families find the walled garden a tranquil place for meditation and healing. The addition of a grove of native trees will provide a much-needed transition to that space. The Common Wealth Award will make this possible.

The club believes there is no tribute too great for those who returned to us after sacrificing so much on our behalf.

### *Paw Path Pollinator Garden at the Smith River Sports Complex*

*Submitted by*

*The Martinsville Garden Club and The Garden Study Club*

To support life for pollinators and, thus, for our grandchildren and their grandchildren, the clubs created the Paw Path Pollinator Garden at the Smith River Sports Complex.

The Martinsville Garden Club and the Garden Study Club joined forces with Master Naturalists, Dan River Basin Association and 13 other organizations. The result: 300-plus plants from 50 native varieties in gardens that bookend and line a half-mile trail beside a serene, trout-rich river.

The path occupies a corner of the 90-acre complex which serves as a beacon in an economically challenged area, drawing 50,000 people a year. The Paw Path, created by a garden club member to honor her sister's memory, has been named a Virginia Treasure. Families, joggers, dog owners and others frequent the wooded path.

Signs about pollinators, the dangers they face and their pivotal role in the ecosystem that supports our lives will inform visitors. Student- and scout-made birdhouses, insect hotels and butterfly houses will dot the trail. Next, the hope is to install an information-rich interactive digital kiosk for visitors. The kiosk would connect to schools for classroom virtual tours, supplemented by educational materials.

Our pollinator gardens will outlast us as a living laboratory, resource and tranquil refuge.

### *The Lee Park Wildflower and Bird Sanctuary*

*Submitted by*

*The Petersburg Garden Club*

The Lee Park Wildflower and Bird Sanctuary is the heart of Lee Memorial Park, encompassing the environmental, historical and social significance of the park and, through its restoration and interpretation, offering a model for stewardship, education and environmental responsibility. During the 1930s, through a remarkable WPA project, Petersburg Garden Club members worked with African-American women of Petersburg to establish a botanical preserve in Lee Park. Species were identified, a herbarium collected, exquisite paintings executed and specimens planted and nurtured. Over 10 miles of paths were developed.

Although in continuous use as a city park and recreation area, the 25-acre sanctuary has been virtually unmanaged for over a half a century. Yet much of the original flora and fauna documented and installed during the WPA project remain. As part of an ongoing effort to restore Lee Park, the club has established a new low-maintenance informational six-panel kiosk at the trailhead to the meadow and Wildflower and Bird Sanctuary.

The interpretive signage for the kiosk and an accompanying brochure and rack card will tell this important national story and promote the conservation of the sanctuary and create programs for at-risk youth.

## *Urban Re Leaf*

*Submitted by*

*Roanoke Valley Garden Club*

Roanoke Valley Garden Club's 91-year history encompasses planting gardens and trees throughout downtown Roanoke. Our signature project has beautified and maintained the Virginia Museum of Transportation's railyard beds since the 1970s. In 2016, the club planted nine trees approaching the museum in an industrial area gradually being revitalized.

Roanoke was developed as a railroad town and VMT honors that history. The official state museum of transportation, VMT is a multi-cultural and multi-generational museum that hosts 50,000 visitors annually from all over the world. The museum is filled with the happy sounds of school groups and grandparents with grandchildren, as well as transportation history buffs. In 2016, VMT served more than 15,000 school-age children with STEM-oriented classes matched to SOLs.

The barren beds in front of the museum need native shrubs and grasses to distinguish the entrance. These require soil and soaker hoses with timers because building overhangs block the rainfall. The museum building is on the National Historic Register and cannot be altered. Signage and rail walk memorabilia will be added to educate visitors. It is worth noting that in fall 2017, when Amtrak begins service to Roanoke, the museum and grounds will be visible from the new nearby passenger platform.

RVGC's project will bring beauty to this museum of historical and educational importance.

## *The Port Republic Riverside Graveyard*

*Submitted by*

*The Spotswood Garden Club*

The once abandoned Riverside Graveyard lies within the sleepy village of Port Republic. The Spotswood Garden Club wishes to facilitate the community's efforts to restore this historic treasure and create an inviting public green space while enhancing its use as an educational site, through artifact repairs and ecological rehabilitation. The riverside cleared of invasive overgrowth and planted for native riparian conservation would allow river access and views. Plantings will primarily serve two purposes: conservation and beautification. Plantings will stabilize the graveyard grounds as they meet with the riverbanks and aesthetically provide habitat for wildlife and pollinators. A peaceful respite will emerge on what was once a bustling street of river industry.

This restoration will amplify the site's usefulness as an educational resource. Port Republic is the destination for history-focused tour groups from elementary to collegiate, Smithsonian Institutes, international tours and genealogists. Geology and archeology departments also utilize the graveyard. The buried represent occupations such as boatman, blacksmith, saddler, tanner and cooper between 1767 and 1899.

The Riverside Project is a perfect blend of preservation, conservation, beautification and education, and would provide a tremendous gift for the present and future. ❁

The Editorial Board welcomes submissions and reserves the right to edit them.



**The Horticulture Committee of the  
Garden Club of Virginia  
is pleased to announce recipients of the  
2017 Horticulture Award of Merit**

*This award was established in 1960 for  
individual members of the  
Garden Club of Virginia  
who have achieved significant  
accomplishments in horticulture,  
both personally and in the  
community at large.*

**Susan Upshur Brown**

The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

**DeLane W. Porter**

Dolley Madison Garden Club

**Kay Spindle Shiflett**

The Virginia Beach Garden Club

**Virginia Trinkle Vinyard**

The Mill Mountain Garden Club

## Virginia Working Landscapes

by Jocelyn Sladen  
The Warrenton Garden Club



Can the ringing whistle of the bobwhite quail be restored to those many habitats across Virginia where it has disappeared?

Nine years ago, a group of landowners in our northern region met to talk about the loss of biodiversity in our grassland habitats. Concerns stretched beyond disappearance of iconic birds like bobwhite quail and meadowlarks, to the absence of native grasses and wildflowers, and the troubling loss of pollinating insects like bumblebees. The meeting reflected an enormous measure of shared local interest. Many came, including representatives from state agencies and conservation groups. The gathering served as a launch pad for an initiative called Virginia Working Landscapes, a network of landowners determined to find and share within our community new answers to the problem of vanishing biodiversity in landscapes that must necessarily serve human purposes.

Fortuitously, the Smithsonian Institution's Conservation Biology Institute headquartered in Front Royal and within our region, not only shared the conversation, but took over a leadership role on the spot. "After all, we are landowners here, too!" its director, Dr. Steve Montfort, commented. Since the inception, SCBI has hosted VWL and has developed the underpinning of science that is a mark of the program. Essentially, though, the program is driven by private landowners.

We are up against impressive odds in preserving biodiversity in our non-forested open landscapes. Fully 40 percent of the continent's declining bird species are those that depend on native grassland ecosystems. Looking around us, we see biological deserts dominated by non-native fescue grasses (think lawns, golf courses, pastures). A leading component of the program has been the restoration of native warm season grasses such as Little Bluestem, Indian Grass, Side Oats Gramma and others. Where these thrive, native grassland ecosystems with their wildflowers, birds and solitary bees have a fighting chance. Some landowner participants have converted significant acreage to plantings of warm season grasses in combination with a splendor of native wildflowers that support pollinators.

Surveys on properties of participating landowners has been a core program activity since the beginning, and has brought out a welcome brigade of citizen scientists. After basic training at SCBI, these volunteers count and collect data on birds, plants and pollinating insects. Data processed by SCBI is beginning to tell a story in land use. It is also enriching our neighbor-to-neighbor information exchange.

As a long-term goal, VWL aims to map and model how a future Virginia landscape may look 50 years from now and to engage the public in envisioning an outcome that celebrates and includes songbirds, native wildflowers, bumblebees and the vast and varied other components of a thriving, working landscape. ❁



Photo credit: Amy Johnson

## GCV Fall Symposium

by Jean Gilpin  
Winchester-Clarke Garden Club

June is the time when the Garden Club of Virginia slows down for the summer. Our thoughts turn to warm evenings, picnics and sand between our toes. But September will soon be here, and with it the beginning of a new GCV year. Celebrate all that GCV has to offer on September 26–27 in Richmond at the Fall Symposium. Imagine two days of inspiration, creativity and discovery with horticulture speakers, conservation speakers, flower-arranging demonstrations, workshops and shopping with vendors.

Tuesday features a new kind of flower show. Kent-Valentine House (GCV headquarters) will be the backdrop for the Artistic Division. Participants can choose their locations in one of the first-floor rooms and choose from a variety of arranging styles. Members may enter as individuals, as part of a team, or they may represent their clubs.

The Horticulture Division takes place at the nearby John Marshall Ballrooms, a short trolley ride from KVH. Cut from your gardens and share your specimens at a show which features plants for pollinators, shrubs, annuals and perennials, as well as roses. Remember that your plants must be in your possession for at least three months.

Speakers begin at noon at the John Marshall. Karen Rexrode, a noted horticulturist and photographer from northern Virginia will entice us with possibilities in her talk entitled “The Unlikely Cut Flower,” highlighting unusual annuals, perennials, bulbs and shrubs for our gardens. “Lessons from Flower Farm Girls” will feature Nelson County residents Foxie Morgan, who will teach us how to grow peonies, and Beverly Lacey, who will further our knowledge of growing dahlias. Karen Forget, Christina Trapani and Katie Register will lead a discussion of “Backyard Earthsavers,” as we learn how implementation of sustainable practices in the home can have a far-reaching impact on our communities.

On Tuesday afternoon at Kent-Valentine House, attend “Challenge the Judges,” when three judges create holiday arrangements to be judged by their colleagues. End the day with a complimentary Sip and See at KVH as you view arrangements. Judges will be on hand to answer your questions.

Wednesday features Flower Arranging School at the Bolling Haxall House. Tricky Wolfes and Kathy Rainer will entertain us with spectacular floral displays. Their nicknames, “Lucy and Ethel,” reflect their tales of high drama mixed with comedy in the event-planning world. You will not want to miss this! After lunch, these experts will offer an intimate hands-on workshop.

Grow and show with friends and the GCV. For more information, schedules and registration visit [gcvsymposium.org](http://gcvsymposium.org). The GCV Fall Symposium is open to members and their guests. ❁



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## Rose Notes

### New Opportunities Slated for Growing and Showing Roses

by Lea Shuba, GCV Rose Committee Chairman  
The Hunting Creek Garden Club

Upon opening a simple box this week, I was happy to find my selections from last year's Garden Club of Virginia Rose Collection. This picture illustrates how little shipping affected their beauty, even arriving in bloom. Chamblee's Rose Nursery in Texas provided wonderful service, as well as a 10 percent discount for GCV members.



You'll be pleased to learn the Rose Committee decided to use this nursery again for this year's environmentally friendly rose collection. We are recommending Belinda's Dream, Duchesse de Brabant, Winter Sun and Pink Enchantment. You may order one, an assortment, last year's selections, or any other disease resistant roses from Chamblee's. All roses will receive the discount if you mention GCV. Their website is [www.chambleerose.com](http://www.chambleerose.com) where you may order online or by phone. Pick a late March delivery date and have it shipped directly to your door. Your club Rose Chairman will have more information about the collection.

To see pictures of this year's selections, or any collections from the past, go to the Flower Shows page on the GCV website and click on Rose. You will see GCV Rose Collections on the menu.

This fall GCV is hosting a new Fall Symposium which features several exciting events, including the chance to enter arranging and horticulture classes. A general horticulture schedule will be posted online, including many rose classes. There will be many opportunities to participate and continue sharing your horticulture and knowledge with friends made at past shows. Ample workroom space and assistance will be available for both identification and display techniques for roses and general horticulture. Entrants must provide their own green bottles for general horticulture and clear bottles for roses. Rules and details may be found at [www.gcvsymposium.org](http://www.gcvsymposium.org).

The horticulture schedule is creative and challenging, featuring inspirational garden spots from around our state. Everyone is sure to find something in their garden, so bring it all, including your roses. 🌹



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# The 83rd Annual

NUMBER OF HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITORS: 108  
NUMBER OF HORTICULTURAL STEMS: 1713  
NUMBER OF INTERCLUB ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENTS: 47  
NUMBER INDIVIDUAL ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENTS: 16

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## — Artistic Awards —



InterClub Class 247A  
Moribana "Selene": Blue  
The Rappahannock Valley  
Garden Club



InterClub Class 247B  
Creative Line "Izar": Blue  
Three Chopt Garden Club



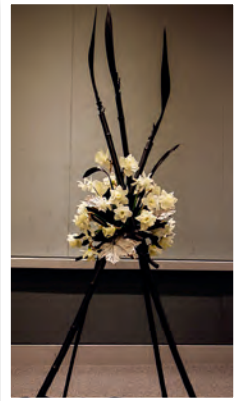
Best arrangement by a novice  
The Hunter Hankins  
Savage Award  
Sally Travis  
Leesburg Garden Club



InterClub Class 247C  
Rococo "Francesco": Blue  
The Hampton Roads  
Garden Club



InterClub Class 247D  
Echo "Handshake"  
The Mrs. Littleton H. Mears  
Trophy: Quad Blue,  
The Garden Club of Alexandria



The Sandra Sadler Baylor  
Award, The Decca Gilmer  
Frackelton Award,  
the Flower Show Chairman's  
Cup, Floor Design,  
Lois Spencer  
The Garden Club  
of the Northern Neck

*Photos by Sandy Geiger*

For more photos and a complete list of winners,  
Grateful appreciation extended to Mary Wynn and Charles McDaniel



# Daffodil Show, 2017

Antington Garden Club

## Horticulture Awards



The Helen Louise  
Broyhill Trophy  
Best GCV Member  
3 stem standard exhibit  
Karen Cogar  
The Hunting Creek  
Garden Club



Wells Knierim Ribbon  
for Best Photograph in the Show,  
“Daffodils in a Landscape or Garden”  
Carolyn Noland  
Mill Mountain Garden Club



Section A, Class 3  
Best InterClub  
Collection: Blue  
Dolley Madison



ADS Gold Ribbon  
Best standard daffodil  
Dianne Spence  
The Williamsburg  
Garden Club



ADS Purple Ribbon Best  
Collection of five  
different standard daffodils  
Karen Cogar  
The Hunting Creek  
Garden Club



David Vaughan  
Honorary Member  
Hillside Garden Club  
winner of the  
William G. Pannill Award  
and the Anne Duvall Miller  
Massie Perpetual Trophy  
with Nina Mustard,  
President GCV

go to [www.gcvirginia.org](http://www.gcvirginia.org) and see Flower Shows  
and Hilldrup Transfer and Storage for support of the GCV Flower Shows

## Sprucing Up Our State Parks Smith Mountain Lake State Park's New Wet Lab

by Katherine Knopf, Roanoke Valley Garden Club

Exciting benefits of attending a Garden Club of Virginia event are the car rides to and from, and chatting with old and new friends. Those discussions often lead to great ideas. It was just such an interaction that occurred on the ride home from the 2016 Annual Meeting in Alexandria: a simple conversation led to a terrific collaboration between Roanoke Valley and Mill Mountain garden clubs.

As we wound down through the Shenandoah Valley, we discussed the exciting new commitment that GCV had announced: an initiative to fund projects in our State Parks for five years. Although we knew little of our neighboring state parks, we decided to investigate. We met in a local coffee shop to review the map of Virginia State Parks, located the closest one, then made a phone call. We explained our mission: to help them apply for a grant to fund something the park needed, but could not afford. Their response was enthusiastic.

We set a site visit and learned about this public space that many in our community use. Located just 35 miles from Roanoke, Smith Mountain Lake State Park is a natural playground of 1,148 acres. Open to the public from 8:15 a.m. until dusk, it provides swimming, camping, boat rentals, a boat ramp, a fishing pier, picnicking, and a visitor center with native fish and flora displays. The park also offers an amphitheater for concerts, hiking trails, cabins and boat docks. During the tour, the park ranger showed us an empty classroom where he hoped to set up a wet lab where park staff could teach the 150 groups of school children who visit each year.

The park ranger and his staff created a list to furnish the lab. Their goals for the students: to procure and test water samples and to learn about the water table and the path that water travels to the lake. We wrote a proposal and attached the wet lab budget. Our clubs were so excited to hear that the GCV State Parks Grant Committee funded the request. When we gave the park ranger the good news, his reply was, "I'm pumped," which says it all. We look forward to seeing the wet lab stocked and full of busy students learning about the ecosystem in which they live. Great things can happen from those impromptu carpools to GCV events. ❁



*Smith Mountain Lake State Park Chief Ranger Jared N. Vandergriff, Katherine Knopf, Roanoke Valley Garden Club, Mill Mountain Garden Club President Janet Frantz, Roanoke Valley Garden Club President Paula Irons*

## Belle Isle Abuzz

by Carter Blackford Filer  
*The Garden Club of the Northern Neck*

**B**elle Isle State Park, in the Northern Neck's Lancaster County, has long been a place where history whispers and the natural world sings. Now it is also a rising star in the venerable constellation of Virginia State Parks, thanks to a generous Centennial grant received as a result of a proposal coordinated with the park and made by our club.



The park is sited along an arc of American history that begins in Jamestown, sweeps northward through Williamsburg, Yorktown, and the Middle Peninsula, and comes to a pleasant pause in Virginia's Northern Neck, often called the cradle of American democracy. Its 2015 acquisition of the centrally located 18<sup>th</sup>-century Belle Isle mansion and grounds, its proximity to many other historic properties in the Northern Neck, and its eco-fragile riverside location on the Rappahannock make it uniquely positioned to bring in new audiences and become a center of research, learning and outdoor fun for visitors of all ages.

In the fall of 2016, three Garden Club of the Northern Neck members met with the park manager and education officer to pinpoint, prioritize and coordinate goals for our proposal, dubbed Belle Isle Abuzz for the flurry of activity we hoped to generate there. Crafting a carefully considered plan also meant tapping into additional active and sustaining club members' experience and skills. As new information came to light, our proposal grew in ways we could not have foreseen, but we stayed true to our original goal of education as the focus.



Today, club members are delighted to receive a Centennial grant, and there is a heightened sense of *esprit de corps* within our group. Both the park and our Northern Neck community will benefit directly from our actions. We see Belle Isle Abuzz as an uncommon opportunity to spotlight the park widely, and demonstrate the reach and relevance of the Garden Club of Virginia and our local club in today's world. 🌸

*Mary Louisa Pollard, GC of the Northern Neck; Belle Isle Chief Ranger/Visitor Experiences Katie Shepard; GC of the Northern Neck President Carter Filer; Friends of Belle Isle founder Frances Callaghan; Friends members Elizabeth and Cliffe Harris; and Friends Treasurer Robert Fox*

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**Fracking in Virginia – From All Perspectives  
The Paramount Theater  
Charlottesville  
Friday, October 27, 2017  
9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

The Conservation and Beautification Committee of the Garden Club of Virginia presents the 59<sup>th</sup> annual Conservation Forum: Fracking in Virginia – From All Perspectives. Speakers will cover the current status of hydraulic fracturing in our state and will offer a balanced discussion on impacts to our economy, our water and our health.

Open to the public, this Forum is part of the Garden Club of Virginia's efforts to engage and inform the public on important conservation issues.

Once again, we will enjoy holding this event in Charlottesville in the beautifully restored historic Paramount Theater.

Visit [gcvirginia.org](http://gcvirginia.org) for complete details and make plans for a wonderful day in Charlottesville. 🌱



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“Virginia's Historic Garden Week is all about a passionate and steadfast commitment to preservation and education shared by some of the brightest and most generous folks imaginable. Beauty aside (and it's endless), the tours provide an opportunity to learn, be inspired, and make valuable connections with others who appreciate this important and rare resource.

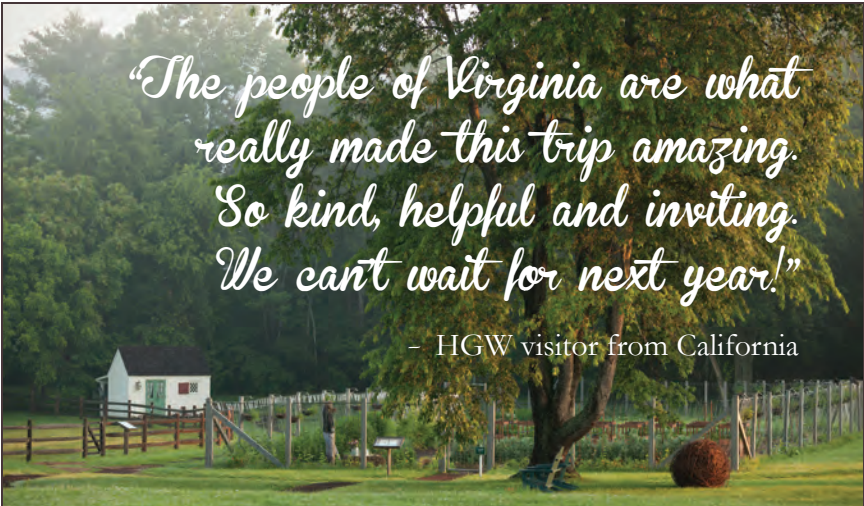
## Historic Garden Week Continues a Beloved Springtime Tradition in Virginia

Whether it was the inspiring gardens, the beautiful interior design and architecture, the interesting history or the world-class flower arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members, with 30 tours to choose from this spring, there was something for everyone. Despite the rain at the beginning of the week, enthusiasm for Historic Garden Week and the work it supports was not dampened. Over 26,000 people attended the 84th anniversary of the only statewide house and garden tour in the country.

“Garden Week was the glimmer of promise as I looked out my window to snow and ice when I planned my trip to Virginia. It's always a highlight of the year for me.” - HGW visitor from Old Town Alexandria


...hearty cheers to its past contributions and (facilitated by your support) for delighting and inspiring generations to come. Thank you!” - 2017 HGW homeowner





*“The people of Virginia are what really made this trip amazing. So kind, helpful and inviting. We can't wait for next year!”*

- HGW visitor from California



Tour proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of more than 40 of Virginia's historic public gardens and landscapes, a research fellowship program and a centennial project with Virginia State Parks. In January, the GCV Board of Directors approved the first series of grants from this partnership, benefiting 12 state parks.



**Mark your calendars:**

**June 27 and 28, 2017** - Boot Camp 5 in Richmond  
*2018 and 2019 Tour Chairmen and Co-chairs please plan to attend*

**April 21-28, 2018** - 85th Historic Garden Week

**April 2-May 4, 2019** - 86th Historic Garden Week

# Green Arrow Society

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you shall never sit.”

- Nelson Henderson

Named for one of the Garden Club of Virginia’s most enduring and familiar symbols, the Green Arrow Society is a group of loyal members and friends who are supporting the GCV’s future with planned gifts. Planned gifts offer financial flexibility, tax advantages and a way to make substantial grants without depleting income or retirement assets. We are grateful to our donors who have chosen to leave a lasting legacy by generously including the Garden Club of Virginia in their estate plans. If you have made such a gift, please let us know so that we may properly acknowledge you in our next Year In Review.

Make an enduring gift and help the Garden Club of Virginia carry its mission into the next century. Contact Lexie Haglund, GCV Director of Development, for more information or to inform us of your gift. 804.643.4137

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## GCV Maintenance Manual: Hands-On Guide for Historic Gardens and Beyond

by Catherine Madden, GCV Restoration Committee and  
Chairman of GCV Horticulture Committee  
The Lynchburg Garden Club

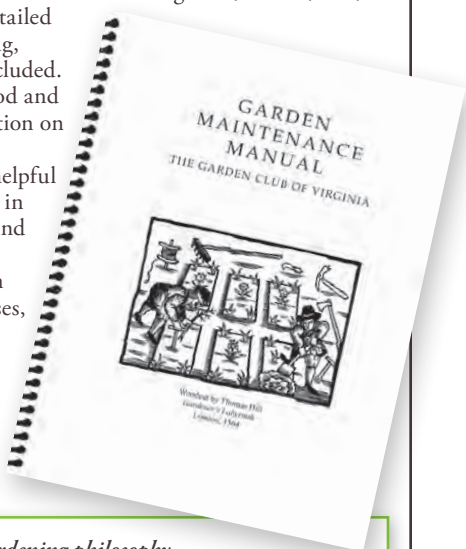
Every other winter, the Garden Club of Virginia Restoration Committee invites the gardeners and staff from our restored properties around Virginia to a maintenance workshop where landscape and garden experts speak on topics of interest. Presentations over the last several years have included talks on boxwood blight, biochar, seed saving, and care of historic trees and shrubs. Some of our speakers have included gardeners from GCV restoration properties, such as Peggy Cornett from Monticello, Dean Norton from Mount Vernon, Beate Jensen from Belmont, Peggy Singlemann from Maymont and Jack Gary from Poplar Forest. Will Rieley, landscape architect for the Garden Club of Virginia, also gives a presentation at each workshop highlighting recent restoration work done at certain properties, and explaining the policies and procedures of the GCV Restoration Committee.

An outgrowth of these biennial maintenance workshops has been the publication of the GCV Restoration Committee's *Garden Maintenance Manual* written by Rieley and Associates. Provided free to each of our restoration properties, the manual serves as a hands-on guide. A wealth of horticultural information can be found within its pages. A section is included that reviews all the GCV Guidelines and Policies regarding its relationship with restored properties.

Beginning with general maintenance topics like soil testing and amendments, watering guidelines, pest and disease control, and mulching practices, the guide provides information on a wide range of plant material including trees, shrubs, turf, perennials, bulbs, groundcover and vines. Detailed instructions on the correct planting, fertilizing, watering and pruning of all these plants is included. The manual contains special notes on boxwood and rose care with newly updated (2017) information on diseases and pests.

Beyond plant care, there is a myriad of helpful information on caring for the built landscape in the garden. Topics covered include cleaning and repair of different pavements, brick and stone walls, metal structures such as decorative iron railings, and wooden structures such as trellises, arbors, gates, bridges and fences.

The good news is that the GCV *Garden Maintenance Manual* may be purchased by anyone for \$16 (tax included) or \$20 with shipping. Call the Kent-Valentine house at 804-643-4137. What a thoughtful gift for any gardener, novice or expert!



*This book lays the groundwork for your gardening philosophy. If you are going to use only one gardening reference, this 63-page, color manual would be the most well-rounded without being over-whelming.*

*-Kaye Moomaw, Hillside Garden Club*

## Ex Libris

by Joan Pollard and Virginia Cherry, GCV Library Committee  
The Petersburg Garden Club

A recent addition to the Kent-Valentine Library, *Presidents' Gardens*, (Shire Publications, 2013, 64 pp.), was donated by the author, Linda Holden Hoyt, former member of the Garden Club of Fairfax. The book provides the opportunity to view gardens and grounds of the White House and offers an extensive review of each president's gardening interests.

Chapters include America's Early Presidents, Gardens for the White House, Orangeries and Greenhouses, Twentieth-Century Gardens and White House Gardeners. The book begins with George Washington at Mount Vernon where he planted fruit trees, vegetables, exotics, fruited espaliers and cordons, and includes his cherished greenhouse and botany garden. It concludes with the White House vegetable gardens created by Michelle Obama.

Included are many seldom seen and rare black-and-white photographs of early presidential homes and gardens. There are also colorful pictures of later presidential-inspired gardens including Jackie Kennedy's Rose Garden, which today serves as the site of press conferences, dinners and outdoor meetings.

Andrew Jackson planted the first commemorative trees on the lawn (two southern *Magnolia grandiflora*) in his wife's memory, which survive today. Rutherford B. Hayes is credited with launching the commemorative tree programs at the White House, suggesting a tree be planted for each president and a tree for each state. By the end of the 20th century, there were more than 500 trees on the White House lawn. While orangeries were in use from the 17th to 19th centuries, Jackson created the first orangery at the White House. It sheltered orchids, citrus trees, japonica camellias and other plants.

This book provides a glimpse into the magnificent 18 acres surrounding the White House that the public rarely sees. 🌸



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## Lily Notes

### Lilies: 80 Years

by Carrie Darracott, GCV Lily Committee Chairman  
The Augusta Garden Club

**T**he Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula hosts the 75th Annual Garden Club of Virginia Lily Show at Essex High School in Tappahannock on Thursday, June 22. The schedule is available on the GCV website. This is the final show hosted by a member club. The GCV is considering continuing the Lily Show as a GCV-hosted event. Please note the show will be judged on Thursday this year.

According to *Follow the Green Arrow*, Dolley Madison and the Rappahannock Valley garden clubs co-hosted the first GCV lily show in Fredericksburg in 1937. No shows were held 1943-1947. Daffodil and Rose shows were being held, and preparations to add lily shows were summarized by Mrs. Floyd Harris' exhortation at the 1937 Annual Meeting to "make the GCV the foremost horticulture club in America for high achievement in horticulture." The Eleanor Truax Harris Cups were established in 1937 as a personal memorial to Mrs. Harris, who had died in September of that year. They are "an expression of the great love of the Garden Club of Virginia for the personality of Mrs. Harris, and a tribute to her leadership in horticultural enterprises."

Between 1930 and 1940, "Daffodil, Rose, and Lily [Test Gardens] were established, and ... the complementary flower shows of each have consistently maintained the high standard of horticulture, display, and judging." Mrs. Joseph Walker, GCV President and Lily Test Chairman, initiated the Lily Test collection in 1936 and urged Rivanna to study *Liliums* in 1937. "Next month the club had 25 ... lily bulbs in the ground, and by 1938 was raising lilies from seed." She was described as a "lily expert, her own lily beds form a growing textbook." Dolley Madison honored member Violet Niles Walker with a Memorial Cup in 1948. When Mrs. Hartley Trundle (Leesburg Garden Club) was Lily Test Chairman in 1955, "she succeeded in persuading 34 of the 40 clubs to take Lily Collections." "The fact that lilies are now widely grown in the south is largely due to the efforts of Mrs. Trundle and the GCV."

Members warmly embraced the competition. "In 1942 Spotswood welcomed Mrs. Amos Showalter to membership. Mrs. Showalter in turn welcomed the Harris Cup four times, the Sponsor's Cup three times, and the Davis Cup three times." Warren County's Mrs. Horatio Minter won the Harris Cup six times and the Walker Cup two times, winning both cups in 1952.

Why Gilbey's Gin bottles for showing lilies? In 1960, Fauquier and Loudoun hosted the show. Members were "urged to serve only Gilbey's for months before the show." Voila! Uniform display and recycling achieved at the same time.

See you at the show. ❁

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Report Period from 01/01/2017 through 03/31/2017

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## Green Arrow Society

Special thanks to our members who have made a lasting commitment to our mission with a planned gift to the Garden Club of Virginia.

Janet Jackson Dennis\*  
Katherine T. Mears  
Helen Turner Murphy  
Susan Wight

\*deceased

If you have made a planned gift, or would like more information about joining the Green Arrow Society, please contact Lexie Haglund at (804) 643-4137 or [development@gcvirginia.org](mailto:development@gcvirginia.org)





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**June 22 75th Annual GCV Lily Show,  
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**July 15 Deadline for September *Journal Article*  
Submission**

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Dates and events as posted on the GCV website  
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