



GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA

2023 Board of Governors Meeting

“Land between Two Waters”

Hosted by The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

Horticulture Exhibit Schedule – “Protecting the Waters of our Commonwealth”

The majority of Board of Governors 2023 meeting attendees will travel to the Eastern Shore from the south, approaching the peninsula by way of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (CBBT). The CBBT has been dubbed a “modern marvel” – a 17.6-mile span of bridge with two tunnels, crossing the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay and connecting Hampton Roads to the southernmost point of Delmarva. First opened to motorist traffic in 1964, car ferries preceded the bridge-tunnel as the sole method of passage.

Traveling north from the bridge, and approaching the last undeveloped portion of the eastern seaboard, you will first cross Fisherman Island – the southernmost in a 60-mile chain of 23 barrier islands. As a National Wildlife Refuge, Fisherman Island is permanently closed to the public due to the critical nature of its wildlife habitats and position central to the Atlantic migratory flyway. Native vegetation there such as black cherry, sassafras, wax myrtle and bayberry can survive the island’s harsh weather while protecting and nourishing land, birds, and other wildlife.

Pristine coastline, and protected-lands that will never be developed, make the Eastern Shore unique in its location, terrain, and ecosystem. Water, however, is an element that connects all of the Commonwealth as Virginia is host to a variety of waterways: the Atlantic Ocean, the Chesapeake Bay, rivers, creeks, marshland, streams and ponds.

What native plants protect the land, birds and other wildlife unique to your waterways?

The Horticulture Exhibit will feature one specimen: a bloom, branch, stem, or a tuft - in the case of grass species in the family *Poaceae*. Your club will have a placement area 16” wide for display with no height restrictions. Please display the specimen in a container of your choice.

On an index card please include the following information about your specimen:

- botanical and common name of the specimen
- protective qualities benefitting nearby waterways, land, and inhabitants
- indicate that specimen is native
- growing conditions

Horticulture exhibits will be displayed inside the Oyster Farm's Pearl Events Center. Exhibits may be placed between 2:00-5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 17th and 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 18th. Exhibits are expected to be in place before the GCV Business Meeting commences on Wednesday and should be removed after the end of the meeting.

HORTICULTURE EXHIBIT SCHEDULE BOG 2023 - EXAMPLES OF PLANT MATERIAL

WESTERN VIRGINIA

- *Elymus virginicus* (Virginia Wild Rye) – Native to the edges of marshes, river and creek banks. Provides erosion control.
- *Juncus effusus* (Soft Rush) – Provides erosion control, sediment accretion and stabilization, nutrient uptake, restoration and creation of wetland ecosystems.
- *Panicum virgatum* (Switchgrass) – Native to open areas and along streambanks. Attracts birds and butterflies.

CENTRAL VIRGINIA

- *Elymus hystrix* (Bottlebrush Grass) – Native to the margins of wetland forests, shaded creek and river banks.
- *Tiarella cordifolia* (Foamflower) – Native to cool, moist deciduous woods and stream banks. Foliage turns reddish bronze in the fall.
- *Vernonia noveboracensis* (New York Ironweed) – Native to floodplain forests, riverbanks, meadows. Seed heads attract birds.

EASTERN / COASTAL VIRGINIA

- *Andropogon glomeratus* (Bushy Bluestem) – Native to sea-level fens, depression ponds, interdune swales and ponds. Provides seed and nesting materials for birds.
- *Andropogon virginicus* (Broomsedge, Broomstraw) – Native to upper shores of ponds. Helps control erosion and provides cover, nesting material and seed for birds.
- *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (Virginia Creeper) – Native to streams, riverbanks. May be used as a ground cover for erosion control. Berries may be eaten by songbirds.