



Newsletter

Vol. 5 No. 1

Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club

Jan - May 2018

A Passion for Peonies

Dawn O'Connor shares her successes on top of Mt. Gilead



FLGC members admire the extensive cutting garden generously shared for local events; Favorite resources;



On top of the highest point in Loudoun (other than the Blue Ridge) at the end of a country road lies the historic property of Dawn and Michael O'Connor. Peonies and peacocks complete the picture of their extensive gardens.

Tir na Nog at Stoney Lonesome is the farm name honoring Michael's Irish heritage.

Dawn and Michael enjoy sharing the history of their special property as well as the gardens.

Tall spikes of Allium 'Ambassador' grace the border. Appreciated for its later bloom time and height.

Peonies continued...



Tips for Peonies from Dawn O'Connor:

1. Recommends planting newer cultivars as they have been bred with stronger stems so they do not flop over like many of the older varieties. There is also a wider range of colors and forms among the recent cultivars. Good sources include Klehm's and Gilbert H. Wild.
2. Keep the area under peonies clear of weeds and groundcovers. They do not like competition over their roots.
3. Plant peonies shallowly so that the eyes are close to the soil level - no more than an inch deep. If your peonies have stopped blooming well, clear off accumulated soil and compost from the eyes, as they tend to get covered too deeply over time.
4. Once the peonies are planted, try not to move them. They are not divided easily and can take three years or more to recover after being moved. If you do dig up a peony, you will need to divide it into sections with a minimum of 3-5 eyes before replanting.
5. Once peonies are planted, it isn't necessary to fertilize or water. Do not put manure in the planting hole as it may cause the rhizomes to rot.
6. Full sun is best, but peonies will survive and bloom if they get 6-8 hours of sun. The more shade, the fewer flowers.



Photos by Anne Walker

President's Letter from Christine Perdue Smith

April and early May were a blur of activity for FLGC with many accomplishments.

Some highlights included:

HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK: We were blessed with perfect weather, beautiful properties, inspiring leaders, and dedicated volunteers. The result was an exceptional tour, both in terms of what we earned for GCV restoration projects and in the good will of our neighbors who generously shared their homes with a record number of visitors. Our dedicated HGW Treasurer, Daphne Cheatham, reports that our tour grossed \$90,575, with some \$61,620 coming from advertising and ticket sales during the tour and the remainder from on-line sales. In addition to our own dedicated club members under the leadership of Gail Clark and our terrific parking crew, we could not have accomplished all this without the help of the many volunteers from other garden clubs: Leesburg, Piedmont, Upperville, and Middleburg, to whom we owe a huge debt of thanks.

PATRONS' PARTY - FLGC's tour weekend began with a lovely Patrons' Party at the home of Susanne Lamb. Property owners, FLGC members, and guests from the community enjoyed delicious food and drink in a beautiful setting. Proceeds from this event will go to support our Club's community outreach projects. Many thanks to Susanne, Gail Clark, Missy Janes, and Aline Day for their support of the party, and to our talented flower arrangers Susan Grayson and Linda Taylor for their spectacular arrangements.

GRANTS AND PROJECTS: It was gratifying to see some of our Club's community grants come to fruition this spring. First, due to FLGC's support, a Horticulture Intern was hired at the State Arboretum at Blandy. Cara Potter, a Berryville native who will graduate this month from Oberlin College with a degree in environmental studies, will begin her work in June.

In addition, our grant to Claude Thompson Elementary School in Rectortown has resulted in the construction of a school garden and has generated enthusiasm in the school and the community. Here is a note I received from the School's principal:

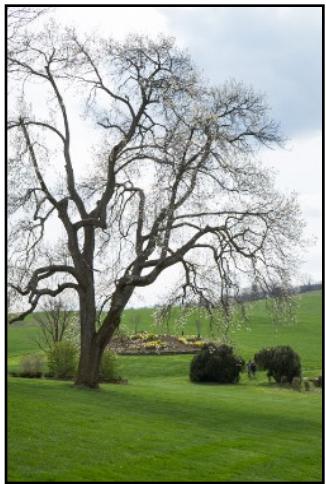
"On behalf of the staff and students at Claude Thompson Elementary, as well as our entire school community, I want to thank you and the Fauquier Loudoun Garden Club for your generous commitment of \$5,000 toward our vegetable garden. We are beyond excited to cultivate our garden dreams of helping to feed our hungry families as well as the community. We are so grateful that you believe in us and that you want to support our efforts."

PROGRAMS AND AN UPCOMING GARDEN TOUR: Our members enjoyed a beautiful day at Blandy during our April meeting, which featured a tour of the Native Plant garden hosted by Sally Anderson, past president of the Virginia Native Plant Society. Our May meeting offered a different experience with another beautiful tour of the O'Connor garden on historic Mt. Gilead Road. In July, we will tour Green Springs Garden, a historic property with a garden designed by Beatrix Farrand and restored by the Garden Club of Virginia.

JUNE FLOWER SHOW: Our June meeting will feature our Club's own Flower Show. Ginger Wallach has written a great horticulture schedule which includes flowers, foliage, shrubs and trees - in short, everyone can find something on the schedule to bring from her garden. The week before the Show, on Tuesday, June 12, there will be a Horticulture Workshop in Polly Rowley's garden, where our members can learn about selecting and preparing horticulture to exhibit. This will be an opportunity to learn a lot and have fun in the process, so please be sure to join us at Polly's.

Christine

Hunt Country House and Garden Tour



A few snapshots from the tour include the happy hostesses manning the table at Buchanan Hall: Daphne Cheatham, Ann MacLeod, Jacquie Gammons (top), Jane Jones, Celeste Wheelwright, Christine Perdue Smith (seated). Andrew Stifler and Bob Eliot hamming it up while parking cars at Ovoka; Ann MacLeod helping a guest.



Historic Garden Week is a Record Success!



Virginia's Historic Garden Week Shows the Most Spectacular Gardens | Architectural Digest

Some of the country's best properties are on display for the state's 85th Annual Historic Garden Week.

ARCHITECTURALDIGEST.COM

ARCHITECTURAEDIGEST.COM

"The Middleburg Tour was a tremendous success thanks to the gracious hospitality of the Homeowners and all the Volunteers.

Congratulations! We couldn't have done it without you." Gail Clark

Architectural Digest Online & Piedmont Virginian both did lovely illustrated write ups of the tours as did Vicky Moon for Country Spirit magazine.

Virginia's Most Spectacular Historic Gardens

Some of the country's best properties are on display for the state's 85th Annual Historic Garden Week

by Austin Mill Architectural Digest online

There is perhaps no more beautiful place to experience springtime than in Virginia, a state that boasts four perfectly distinct seasons in addition to a wealth of history dating back to the origins of America...

[Click link to see full article](#):

<https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/virginia-historic-garden-week>



First Ever FLGC Patron Party Hosts Susanne & Steve Lamb at Ardarra Farm



Grandson, Sutter Lamb with hosts Susanne and Steve Lamb; Pat Brennan and Gail Clark; Carey and Louise Crane with Janna Leepson; Dale and Ingrid Hinckley Lindsay with Sandra Markus; Linda Taylor; the lovely spread of dinner items and desserts—many prepared by Susanne.



Patron Party continued



Flowers for Living Room by Susan Grayson on left:
Flowers by Linda Taylor for dining room on right



Aline Day tastes the Ardarra farm grown peas in a
welcomely warm Pea Soup made by Susanne



Libby Devlin, Leesburg GC HGW Chair for 2019 with
Sally Travis and Gail Clark, HGW FLGC Tour Chairman



Hot Apple Cranberry with Lime and spices also
provided a warm non-alcoholic beverage for the chilly
evening.



Patrons converse on the Ardarra Patio



Rose Marie Bogley's guest with RMB & Ann MacLeod



Charleston guests-Julia and John Forester with Steve
Lamb and Bill Janes



Joan Eliot with her mother, Buffy Campbell enjoying
the gardens

GCV Restoration Committee

How do you get a garden restored by GCV?

After a successful Historic Garden Week I thought it would be good to tell you one project that will be started because of the monies raised. As a new member of the GCV Restoration Committee I have learned what it takes to get a garden restored at a historic property. It takes an application from a property asking for design, replacement of plants, trees or help with problems, such as drainage for a garden in a historic property open to the public. The committee looks at the site with Will Rieley, our Landscape Architect, to see if the project meets our requirements. If so, we get a written agreement from them promising to maintain the area.

Our latest project will be at Stratford Hall. It is a big garden space which is terraced containing boxwood, vegetables, flowering shrubs and bulbs. When the committee met there we could see the original space which was basically either over grown, diseased boxwood or empty except for weeds. Will Rieley has now redesigned the area on paper as it originally was planted by researching papers in the archives. It is going to be beautiful. Work has already been started. Dead shrubs and boxwood removed, terracing reworked and laid out for replanting this spring.

I think this might be a great outing for our club as a day trip. I will let you know when the project at Stratford Hall is done...maybe we can even spend the night and have some dinner and fun together. Thank you all for a successful tour here at home!

Elaine Burden



The Stratford Hall plantation house was built by Thomas Lee in the late 1730s. It is one of America's most treasured cultural and ecological resources.

*Two historic favorites in the garden include:
Halesia carolina/Carolina Silverbell in bloom to right above is native to several southeastern and southern states.*

Rosa Chinensis Old Blush also known as Old Pink Daily became an historic favorite for its repeat bloom.



Upperville Daffodil Show



FLGC interclub entry and team - Anne Walker, Susan Wallace, Daphne Cheatham, Janna Leepson, Telle Zeiler and Carol Butler.



Ginger Wallach with her blue ribbon and show greeter, Ann MacLeod.

April Picnic Meeting at Blandy

Susan Wallace received the GCA Club Appreciation Award for her outstanding work as Awards Chair.



Picnic and Tour of Blandy after business meeting in library.



Sheila Harrell, Mary Ann Gibbons and Georgiana Watt noticing the mailbox nesting option high on a dead trunk.

The Garden Club of America
Annual Meeting in San Francisco
April 27-29, 2018

How the West was One - Christine Perdue Smith, our President asked me to be her Delegate for this meeting as I am the Speaker Chairman for the 2020 Annual Meeting in Asheville. We thought it a good idea for me to see the timing and all things regarding speakers at that meeting. I accepted with pleasure.

We arrived Thursday afternoon to sunny skies and temperatures in the 60*s...lovely. We had an early dinner and got to bed with a 3 hour time difference. On Friday I had arranged to see a private garden and met my Hillsborough friend who took Christine and me to see the most beautiful garden which was a part of the garden tour as a pre tour selection. We unfortunately couldn't get on to that trip as it was sold out. We did get to see the best of the three on tour, thanks to my friend. We were treated to lunch at the beautiful Burlingame Country Club. Out to dinner that night with some of the Zone 7 ladies – fun to meet some new people.

The business meeting began at 8:30. Saturday

Keynote Speaker was Thomas Woltz a noted Landscape Architect who talked about a few of his public park projects based on his philosophy of using culture and history of the place for balancing sustainable land management with designs that reveal our common narratives.

Sunday the Keynote Speaker Jonathan Foley – Executive Director of California Academy of Sciences spoke about Global food security and the sustainability of our planet's resources.

Important Information –

Plant of the Year – *Pycnatherium muticum* or Mountain Mint

Founders Fund Winner – A Therapeutic Garden – Nurturing Plants and Enriching Minds

Former First Lady Laura W. Bush received the Achievement Medal

Honorary Members Dan Hinkley, Roy Diblik, Bill McNamara

Reports were given by every chairman of each committee – mainly video or pictures with power point. The most successful ones were with humor.

The zone dinners were held in private San Francisco clubs -- lovely

The awards dinner was held at our hotel – The Hyatt Regency. The security was very tight as Mrs. Bush was there. She is lovely, spoke eloquently and made us all proud to be Americans

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Burden, Delegate

Upcoming Programs

June 12 10 am Workshop

How to Choose and Prepare Horticulture Exhibits

**The Garden of Polly Rowley
2135 Landmark School Road**

June 20 2 pm Tea

Club Flower Show Horticulture only

**Trinity Church Parish Hall
Entries accepted 11:30 - 1:15
Judging begins at 1:30 pm**

July 18 9:30 am Garden Tour & Picnic

**Green Springs Garden
4603 Green Springs Road, Alexandria
Meet at 9:30 am to carpool; tour at 11:00
lunch at 12:00**

**August 15 4pm Hors d'oeuvres
Spouses and Guests Welcome**

**Virginia Working Landscapes
A Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute project**

**Amy Johnson
Wakefield School
The Plains**

GCV Lily Collection

The GCV Lily Collection will be not be offered until September due to changes in Holland. The lilies will be shipped in the spring for immediate planting.

GCV Lily Show

The 2018 Lily Show, "Lilies in Bloom" will be held at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Richmond on **June 19**. The show is sponsored by the GCV and Nina Mustard is serving as Show Chairman. This is a horticulture show only. Included is the Inter Club Collection Class. I hope that our members that have ordered the collection over the past years will once again offer me their lilies so that I can enter the inter-club class for FLGC. You also might want to journey to Richmond to enter your own lilies and be back in time for our own horticulture show on June 20, 2018.

GCV Horticulture Field Day

On another note the GCV Horticulture Field Day will be held on Wednesday, **June 6** in Lynchburg.

Five spectacular gardens will be open plus an optional tour of Poplar Forest on June 5th. After three months of terrible weather in Fauquier County Horticulture Field Day will be a wonderful way to spend the day. Information is now on the GCV web site. Register now!!

*Pat Turner
Lily Chair
Horticulture Committee co-chair*



GCV Annual Meeting Horticulture Exhibit

Thank you to Mary Marshall Hansen and Pat Turner for creating the exhibit, "Women on Track". Note the flag pole wrapped by Clematis Josephine and the Pennzoil can (an inspired touch).

Clematis 'Josephine' is native to Northern and Southern Hemispheres including Europe. It grows to a height of 7 feet in zone 4 - 8. It requires full to part sun. Keep roots in shade and uniformly moist.



Everett Garden, Chevy Chase
photo © Melissa Clark Photography

Garden Conservancy Open Days in the DC Area on June 10th

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, June 10th, please join the [Garden Conservancy's Open Days program](#) by visiting four spectacular gardens in the DC area -- two in Georgetown and the other two in suburban Maryland.

Admission is \$7 per garden (in Georgetown the gardens are next to each other and only one admission fee will be charged). Proceeds benefit the Conservancy's preservation and education programs.

Sunday, June 10th
10 am - 4 pm
Rain or shine
For more details, visit
the [Garden Conservancy Open Days website](#)

Garden locations:
1224 and 1228 30th St. NW, Washington DC (two adjacent gardens, one admission)
Everett Garden Designs Studio & Garden 8 Newlands Street, Chevy Chase MD
Greenheart Gardens Studio and Garden 805 Dale Drive, Silver Spring MD



Dear Miss Charlotte
Kaye Nazarian writes, "I can grow **Camellia** and roses in Savannah, but I have to get them before the deer. They eat everything! **Gardenia** not bothered, thankfully."

Kaye Miss Charlotte's friends are inhaling that heavenly scent!



Dear Miss Charlotte

Don't forget about our new policy regarding funding. Everything from a special meeting speaker fee to a club project must go through the Grants and Proposals Committee.

Grants and Proposals Deadline

Sally Fletcher wishes to remind everyone that any and all requests for grants, donations or funding for club projects must be submitted to the Grants Committee by July 1st for the August GC meeting. Forms are on the website.

Dear Miss Charlotte

What are **Neonicotinoids** and why should we be aware of their use on seeds and nursery plants?

Neonics are systemic pesticides absorbed into the plant's vascular system leaving the entire plant toxic to target insects such as whitefly, japanese beetles and emerald ash borer. The problem is they also destroy important, non-target insects that serve as valuable pollinators. The pesticide affect their central nervous system and is suspected to be part of the cause of colony collapse disorder in domestic honeybees and wild pollinator species.

About 85% of Earth's flowering plants rely on pollination by bees and other pollinators.

Seeds treated with neonicotinoids reduce the drift of toxins and create a safer environment for workers but pollinators are dying off. The pollen contains the substance which can live up to two years.

Ask at your nursery before you purchase and advise them not to sell plants that have been doused or started from seeds that have been soaked.

<https://www.mnn.com/your-home/organic-farming-gardening/stories/neonicotinoids-what-home-gardeners-need-to-know>