



GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA
JOURNAL

Late Fall 2022 | Volume LXVII | No. 4

INSIDE

A Successful Symposium | Holiday Gardening Gifts | The Emancipation Oak | Board of Governors

PROJECTED
OPENING
2024



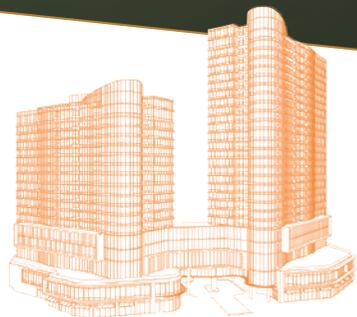
reimagine possible.

DISCOVER LUXURY OF A DIFFERENT KIND

Introducing The Mather in Tysons, Virginia—
a forward-thinking destination for those 62 and better.

Forget what you thought you knew about senior living.
Inquire today.

(703) 348.8522 | themathertyson.com



Delight • Revel • Aspire

FITNESS CENTER • EXERCISE STUDIO • INDOOR POOL • SPA • RESTAURANTS • EVENT LAWN • WALKING PATHS • CONCIERGE • ROOFTOP CLUBROOM • DOG PARK



ELIZABETH LOCKE

JEWELS



The Other Elizabeth

17 EAST MAIN STREET, BOYCE, VA
540-837-3088 or www.elizabethlockejewels.com

THE MISSION OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA:

To conserve the gifts of nature, to restore and preserve historic landscapes of the commonwealth, to cultivate the knowledge and love of gardening and to lead future generations to build on this heritage.

THE GCV JOURNAL

The Garden Club of Virginia *Journal* is published quarterly and is designed to address the interests and promote the activities of the Garden Club of Virginia and its member clubs. Organized to enhance and strengthen communication within the GCV, the *Journal* focuses on the mission of the organization: conservation and beautification, horticulture, restoration and education. Approximately 3,600 copies of each issue are mailed to members and subscribers.

A PDF version is available online at gcvirginia.org.

SUBMISSIONS

The *Journal* welcomes submissions by GCV committees, clubs and club members, as well as article ideas related to the GCV's mission and its initiatives and events. As a matter of editorial policy, all submissions will be edited for clarity of expression, space, style compliance, grammar, syntax, structure and messaging. Unsolicited material will be considered, but submission does not guarantee publication. For questions, please contact journal@gcvirginia.org.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE & DEADLINES

ISSUES	PUBLISHES IN	SUBMISSION DEADLINE	RESERVE DEADLINE
Fall	September	July 15	July 1
Winter	December	October 15	October 1
Spring	March	January 15	January 1
Summer	June	April 15	April 1

ADVERTISING

Advertising inquiries are welcome. Discounts are available to clubs and club members; frequency discounts are also available.

For a rate sheet or more information, visit the GCV website at gcvirginia.org or contact *Journal* Ad Sales Manager at journalads@gcvirginia.org.

The Garden Club of Virginia is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. 12 East Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219.

The *Journal* is printed by Carter Printing Company (ISSN 0431-0233) and is published four times a year for members by the GCV.

Graphic Design by Whitney Tigani Design

Periodical postage paid (USPS 574-520) in Richmond, Va.



The Garden Club of Virginia supports recycling. Please recycle this publication.

at rates from contract.



STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

The ownership, management and circulation of The Garden Club of Virginia's *Journal*, published four times a year in Richmond, Virginia, is hereby stated in the first issue published after the first of October 2022.

The name and address of the publisher is: The Garden Club of Virginia, Kent-Valentine House, 12 East Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. The name and address of the editor is: Madeline Mayhood, 12 East Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. The owner is: The Garden Club of Virginia, Kent-Valentine House, 12 East Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. There are no bond holders, mortgages or security holders.

The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal Income Tax purposes have not changed during the preceding 12 months.

The total number of copies published nearest the filing date is 3,600. The average number of copies published in the preceding 12 months is 3,600. There are no sales through dealers, etc. Paid subscriptions average 3,429; the number nearest the filing date is 3,442. Other mailed copies average 0. Free distribution averages 75. The average number of copies not distributed for the preceding year is 200. The average number of copies not distributed nearest the filing date is 250.

The *Journal* Editor requests permission to mail The Garden Club of Virginia's *Journal* at the phased postal rates presently authorized on form 3526 for USPS #574-520 (ISSN 0431-0233). I certify that the statements made here are correct and complete as listed in the Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation.

Madeline Mayhood, *Journal* Editor
 c/o Garden Club of Virginia
 12 East Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23219

Postmaster, please send address changes to:
 Garden Club of Virginia
 12 East Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23219
 12/1/2022



TOP: Roanoke Valley Garden Club's winning entry for "Breaking News" at the 2022 Symposium Flower Show

ABOVE: Bees gathering pollen on cosmos. *Photo by Skylar Ewing from Pixabay*

ABOVE RIGHT: Hampton University's Emancipation Oak. *Photo courtesy Bartlett Tree Experts*

COVER ART: *Looking Through the Lens of 2020*, by Sherry Rawls-Bryce, The Little Garden Club of Winchester

Contents

Late Fall 2022 *Journal*

ESSENTIALS

- 4 **Spotlight:** Cover Artist—Sherry Rawls-Bryce, The Little Garden Club of Winchester
- 5 **President's Message**
- 7 **Editor's Letter**
- 8 **Fresh Produce & News You Can Use:** Listen Closely, Hillwood in Winter, Tree Tips with Bartlett, Invasives vs. Weeds, and more

FEATURES

- 12 **Living History:** Hampton University's Emancipation Oak
- 14 **GCV 2022 Symposium**
- 18 **Board of Governors 2022**
- 20 **Roanoke Valley Garden Club:** A Storied History: 1925-2022
- 22 **2022 Gift Giving Guide:** Catch the holiday spirit with ideas from GCV gardeners!

SNIPS

- 26 **Club News**
- 28 **Committee News Horticulture: What's The Buzz:** For every season, there is a bee

END NOTES

- 30 **Ex Libris**
- 32 **Historic Garden Week 2023 Guidebook:** Cover preview, plus a call for 2024 entries
- 33 **GCV Calendar**



NOT TO MISS GIFTS

For the perfect holiday gift for the gardener in your life, check out our ideas for giving on page 22.

ON THE COVER: ARTIST SPOTLIGHT
SHERRY RAWLS-BRYCE

Sherry Rawls-Bryce's go-to camera is her trusty iPhone. Her cover shot, of a sugar maple taken in the winter of 2020, was a response to the *Winter Trees* challenge for GCV members, initiated by then-Photography Chair Edie Hessberg (Winchester-Clarke Garden Club).

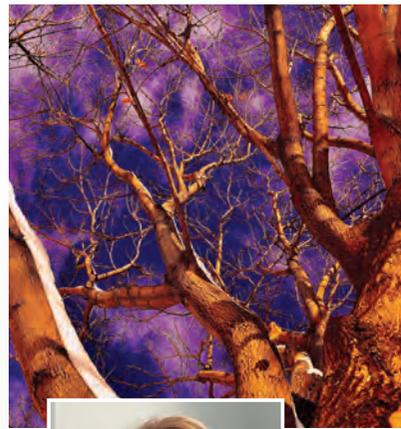
"The limbs in my front yard contrasted nicely against the vivid morning sky following a little snow storm the day before," explains Sherry, who titled her photo, "Looking Through the Lens of 2020." She says the altered image "reflects the unexpected and surreal aspects of that first year of the pandemic."

The Journal Committee was especially taken by Sherry's photograph, although she swears she's not an accomplished photographer. "I just find great joy in the art of photography," she says. A member of The Little Garden Club of Winchester, she chairs its Photography Committee. "Our team strives to foster and maintain an interest in photography," Sherry explains. "We have found great success with our monthly photo challenges. Members send their digital images, based on a theme, and we put together a presentation for all to enjoy."

With her phone always at the ready, Sherry says she appreciates "the ability to shoot quickly and easily when I see an appealing opportunity." For this particular image, she used her iPhone's built-in editing features by "simply altering the saturation and vibrance to achieve the unusual colors," she says, adding, "I am also a big fan of using photo apps to create interesting images."

For GCV club members who have an interest in entering photography shows, but haven't quite jumped in with both feet, Sherry's advice is to "get over the fear and have fun. Use your resources. Ask those who have entered before for tips and tricks. Simply put: Just do it!"

—Madeline Mayhood, The James River Garden Club



ABOVE: "Looking Through the Lens of 2020" by Sherry Rawls-Bryce, The Little Garden Club of Winchester



Photo by Robert Llewellyn

PLANTING SEEDS FOR
FUTURE GENERATIONS

Thank you for supporting the Garden Club of Virginia's Annual Fund.



GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA

GCVirginia.org/giving

GCV BOARD OF
DIRECTORS 2022-2023

President: Debbie Lewis,
The Garden Study Club

1st Vice President: Kris Carbone,
The Garden Club of Danville

2nd Vice President: Wendy Walker,
The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

Treasurer: Tricia McDaniel,
The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club

Recording Secretary: Laura Francis,
The Hunting Creek Garden Club

Corresponding Secretary: Meg Laughon,
Hillside Garden Club

Parliamentarian: Nina Mustard,
The Williamsburg Garden Club

Artistic Design: Cathy Lee,
The Boxwood Garden Club

Conservation & Beautification: Sarah
Hellewell, Hillside Garden Club

Development: Kelly Johnson,
The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club

Finance: Mary Bacon,
The James River Garden Club

Historic Garden Week: Fran Carden,
Albemarle Garden Club

Horticulture: Allison Clock,
The Hampton Roads Garden Club

Restoration: Jean Gilpin,
Winchester-Clarke Garden Club

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

District 1 (2022-2024): Kathryn Angus,
Three Chopt Garden Club

District 2 (2021-2023): Virginia Gillock,
The Augusta Garden Club

District 3 (2022-2024): Katie Spencer,
The Huntington Garden Club

District 4 (2022-2024): Paula Irons,
Roanoke Valley Garden Club

District 5 (2021-2023): Jennifer Kelley,
The Garden Club of Alexandria

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

Executive Director: Andrea Butler

**Immediate Past President (Ex Officio
2022-2023):** Missy Buckingham,
The Boxwood Garden Club

PLANT YOUR SEEDS



Flipping through *Journals* of years past, I found an article titled, "Why do you care about the Garden Club of Virginia?" It was a candid question, posed at strategic planning focus meetings in 2005 and aimed at gathering information from members to determine what the organization might look like in the coming decades.

The responses were varied, but as you might guess, common themes emerged. One member remarked that "by being part of the GCV, I can do my part so that Virginia doesn't look like Las Vegas." Another answered, "because we're the very best at historic garden restoration," and many spoke to the importance of educating our children about growing plants and protecting the environment. The article went on to share the opinion that "We must stay involved legislatively. It's the only way to make a difference." The answers to this simple question clearly reaffirmed the strength and breadth of GCV's mission.

What would responses be, nearly 20 years later? This fall the Directors at Large posed two questions to each member club president, "What do you love most about being a member of the Garden Club of Virginia," and "What ideas do you have to grow the GCV into the next century? Plant your Seeds."

At the Board of Governors meeting in October, the DALs gave a lively and creative presentation summarizing the responses from each district. The synopsis showed thoughtful and introspective answers. Themes of "Love" centered around connections and camaraderie with highly capable and committed colleagues and the availability of educational opportunities to expand individual and club horizons. Presidents shared their passion for being involved in an organization with a strong commitment to our communities around the commonwealth in conservation, restoration and education. Themes of "Growth" repeatedly stated the need to increase opportunities for regional projects and programs, to build and diversify membership and improve technology use by GCV.

So much of what was said yesterday holds true today, but the future growth and strength of the Garden Club of Virginia is dependent on embracing our cherished traditions yet moving forward with intention, knowledge and vision. I am grateful to each of you for the valuable input that you provide and for your dedication, talent and passion.

You have planted your seeds, and together we will watch them grow.

Debbie Lewis
GCV President, 2022-2024



THE BIZARRE BAZAAR®



Mark Your Calendars!

The 47th CHRISTMAS COLLECTION!

Dec 1 - 4

The 31st Spring Market

May 5 - 7

A Most Fabulous Marketplace!

RICHMOND RACEWAY COMPLEX
600 E. Laburnum Ave. - Richmond, VA 23222
For information, please contact:
(804) 673-7015 or (804) 673-6280
www.thebizarrebazaar.com



Hilldrup and the McDaniel family proudly support the mission of the Garden Club of Virginia and Historic Garden Week.

Moving, Storage, Relocation & Logistics



Locations in Fredericksburg, Richmond and D.C.
hilldrup.com | 844.877.3438

TAKE THE GCV PLEDGE & REFUSE TO USE SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

HOW LONG WILL THESE LAST?

20 YEARS	450 YEARS	200 YEARS	500 YEARS

Containers | Cups | Cutlery | Coffee Stirrers & Lids | Take-out Containers | Plastic Wrap | Six Pack Rings | Grocery Bags | Food Packaging | Bottles | Plastic Q-tips | Disposable Shavers | Wet Wipes | Blister Packs | Balloons | Tape | Cable Ties | Straws | Disposable Gloves | Individually Wrapped Snacks

GCV JOURNAL 2022 COMMITTEE

Madeline Mayhood, Editor
The James River Garden Club

Louise Freeman,
Three Chopt Garden Club

Nancy Inman,
Albemarle Garden Club

Katherine Knopf,
Roanoke Valley Garden Club

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Kay Tyler,
The Boxwood Garden Club
journalads@gcvirginia.org

GCV PRESIDENT

Debbie Lewis,
The Garden Study Club

GCV RECORDING SECRETARY/JOURNAL LIAISON TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laura Francis,
The Hunting Creek Garden Club

GCV EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Andrea Butler

GCV COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Ann Heller

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON



The Christmas season is here! We polled a handful of GCV club members across the state for gift giving ideas. If you're still on the hunt for the perfect holiday gift for the gardener in your life, peruse our pages for ideas galore.

Our friends from Bartlett Tree Experts unveil a fascinating story about the Emancipation Oak, which is proudly rooted on the campus of Hampton University. Bartlett's experts are

partnering with the university to preserve and conserve this extraordinary *Quercus virginiana* specimen.

Heidi James, from The Lynchburg Garden Club, buzzes in with an article about the bees in her garden. She encourages all of us to pay attention to these industrious creatures in our yards too. We include recaps of the 2022 Symposium in September and the Board of Governors in Roanoke from October, along with a history of host club Roanoke Valley Garden Club. There's so much to read in our pages.

It's December now, and on our cover, we feature an extraordinary photograph taken by The Little Garden Club of Winchester shutterbug Sherry Rawls-Bryce. The bold architectural limbs of a sugar maple, set against a neon purple sky, hint at a stark winter settling in. Snow, accumulated in the crook of the trunk, amplifies the mood.

We love featuring the work of GCV club members in our pages and on our covers. Whether you're a painter or a photographer, consider sharing your work with the GCV and send your high-resolution images our way: journal@gcvirginia.org.

Curl up with a cuppa hot chocolate and enjoy this issue. But mostly enjoy the season — and each other.

Happy reading. And see you in the garden soon!

Madeline Mayhood

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





Listen Closely

Three Virginia-based gardening podcasts and blogs not to miss.

Nuts for Natives

Shari Wilson, Maryland's former Secretary of Environment, is all about promoting native plants. She's now living and gardening in Chesapeake, and her blog is packed with great information—from native plant spotlights (think milkweed and little blue stem), design ideas, even conversations with native plant gurus like Doug Tallamy and Rebecca McMackin of Brooklyn Bridge Park in New York. Plus, she includes posts about trips to public gardens, nurseries and parks, specifically with a native plant focus. NutsForNatives.com



Photo by Skyler Ewing, Pixels

Home Garden Joy

Jeanne Grunert's blog is an all-purpose gardening blog, featuring a wide range of posts—from how to start a vegetable garden, to when to stop feeding hummingbirds, propagating peach trees from softwood cuttings, product reviews and a recipe for a fresh, late-season vegetable soup, perfect for fall. Grunert birdwatches, gardens, and blogs at Seven Oaks Farm in Prospect, Va. HomeGardenJoy.com



Into the Garden with Leslie

This teacher-coach turned gardener-designer pivoted her wildly successful LH Designs in Charlottesville, with a focus on garden maintenance and installation, to concentrate more on design, consulting, speaking and her gardening podcast and radio show, *Into the Garden with Leslie*. The Leslie would be Leslie Harris, a member of the Albemarle Garden Club. The *Journal* spotlighted her blog and podcast in the Fall 2021 issue, and it's so worth a look and listen. Some of her latest posts feature a bundle of conversations with groovy gardening guests, including Bunny Williams, Claus Dalby, Page Dickey and Marianne Wilburn. LHGardens.com



GCV AWARD DEADLINES

Don't miss the nomination deadlines for GCV's prestigious awards. Information, guidelines and applications for all awards can be found on the GCV website: GCVirginia.org

MARCH 1, 2023

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

JUNE 1, 2023

- Dugdale Award for Meritorious Achievement in Conservation
- Conservation Educator Award



COMMON WEALTH AWARD



and the winners...

First Place: Three Chopt Garden Club for its horticulture therapy project at the Virginia Treatment Center for Children in Richmond.

Second Place: The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore for their Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence campus beautification and conservation project.



TREE TIPS BY BARTLETT

Tree Focus with Bartlett Tree Experts

Ginkgo in the fall. Photo from Pixabay

The ginkgo, often called maidenhair tree, is the last survivor of an ancient lineage of trees in the division Ginkgophyta. These trees, found in fossils from North America, Europe and Asia, once thrived alongside the great dinosaurs. Only *Ginkgo biloba* survived in a few mountainous regions of China, where some are thought to be more than 4,000 years old. It is a dioecious species; there are male and female plants.

Culture

- Ginkgos grow moderately slowly, usually reaching 65-95 feet in height. Some specimens exceed 160 feet;
- Mature trees are often wider than tall;
- Cultivars abound, with selections offering narrow upright, pyramidal or dwarf growth habits, as well as ornamental features like yellow-streaked leaves;
- A favorite urban tree, thanks to its tolerance for harsh



environmental conditions such as drought, wide ranging soil types and pH, de-icing salts and soil compaction;

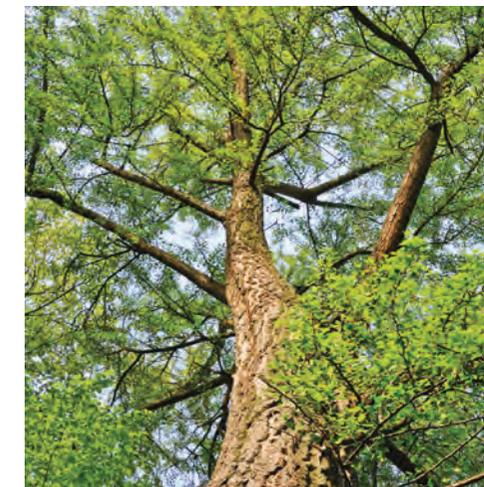
- Prized for its stunning yellow-gold color prior to autumn leaf drop;
- Strong root systems make ginkgos resilient to wind throw (aka blowing over);
- Ginkgos are remarkably free of pests.

Concerns

- Female trees produce fleshy seeds which, after dropping, are slippery and foul-smelling;
- Male trees are preferred, although their heavy pollen load may contribute to hay fever;

- Diseases include root rots and some negligible leaf spots.

Bartlett Management Practices: Monitor for root and soil issues, specifically phytophthora root rot, waterlogged soils and root knot nematodes. Bartlett.com



Above: Mature ginkgo tree. Photo courtesy of Bartlett Tree Service

Inset: Ginkgo leaf. Photo by Matthias Böckel from Pixabay



Invasives vs. Weeds

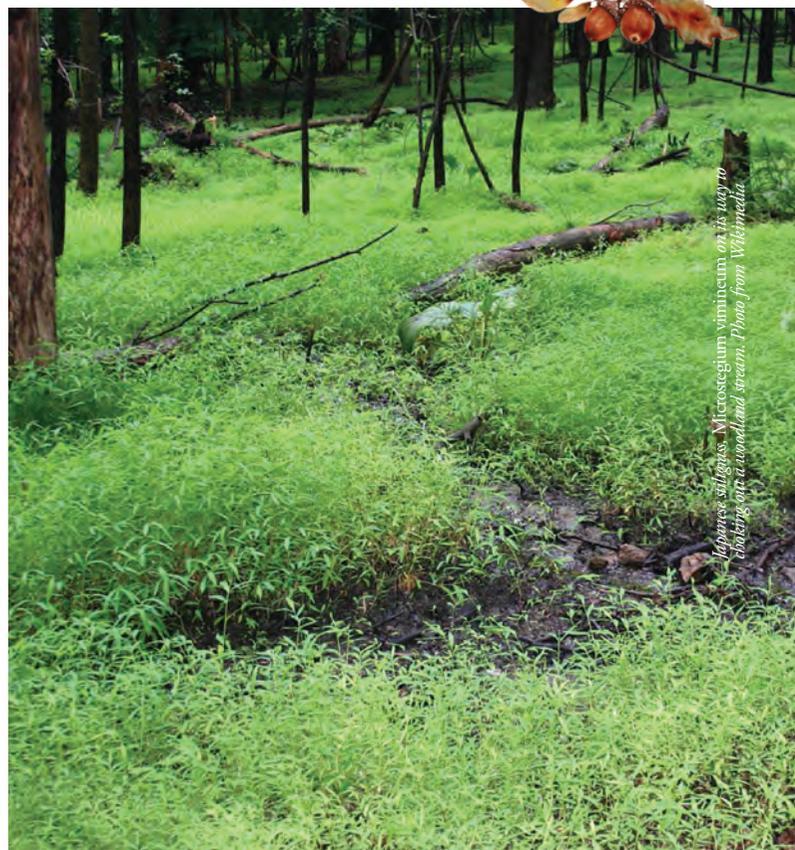
Angela Sirois-Pitel, conservation biologist with The Nature Conservancy, dishes with garden podcaster Margaret Roach on invasives vs. weeds and the challenges she and her team face supporting native habitat on Nature Conservancy land. To check out more of their conversation, head to AWayToGarden.com.

Roach is an award-winning garden writer and New York Times garden columnist. Her epic podcast is a must-listen for gardeners everywhere.

“Invasive plant management is like weeding on an ecological scale ... it’s just a much bigger garden. Invasive plants are plants that sometimes can be native. Often we work with ones that are non-native, meaning they don’t originate wherever you happen to be gardening or managing land. So, invasives are really super-competitor plants. They have a lot of unique reproductive strategies. They’re highly competitive, and they’re very aggressive and vigorous.”

Invasives are actually pretty impressive plants. But when they get a foothold where you don’t really want them, that’s when they become invasive. And they really push out, often pushing out native vegetation or just changing the structure.”

— **Angela Sirois-Pitel**, conservation biologist, *The Nature Conservancy*



Japanese stinging nettles, *Microstegium vimineum*, on its way to choking out a woodland stream. Photo from Wikimedia.

SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 2023

DOLLEY MADISON GARDEN CLUB INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR

summer fun

A GCV LILY SHOW

HAVE FUN. BE CREATIVE!

JUNE 21, 2023

ORANGE, VIRGINIA
Workroom opens June 20.

Watch for more info in *Membership News* or visit DMGCVirginia.org

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

Explore Hillwood in December

While gardens in winter garden may not be as splashy as spring bulbs or summer blooms, a peaceful winter garden is equally amazing. Head to Hillwood, the estate of Marjorie Meriweather Post in Northwest Washington, D.C., in December and explore the bones of this magnificent property’s winter gardens with Jessica Bonilla, Hillwood’s director of horticulture. Evergreen plants take center stage, deciduous woody plants become architectural, and hard-scapes become more important. Winter’s cool,



light shapes the experience, revealing more subtle shades of green and brown. The few flowers in bloom are very special, and the texture of conifer needles and tree bark seem richer in the winter

sunlight. Ticketed 30-minute tours are limited to 20 participants. December 16, 20, 23. Hillwood.org

Hillwood in winter. Photos by Erik Kvalsvik, courtesy of Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens



The Emancipation Oak thrives under the care of Bartlett Tree Experts

By Jay Stapleton & Alan Jones, Bartlett Tree Experts

A REMARKABLE TREE



Standing on the grounds of Hampton University, the majestic Southern live oak offers a peaceful respite from the afternoon sun. It is massive, with giant, sweeping limbs that plunge toward the earth before shooting back up toward the sky. The expansive canopy of the *Quercus virginiana* covers hallowed ground where history was made. For as long as anyone can remember, this symbolic tree has been known as the Emancipation Oak.

Marking a place where Mary K. Peake, a freed woman of color, taught freed and enslaved people to read and write on what is now the campus of Hampton University, the tree stands tall, a symbol of the historically Black university's rich heritage and perseverance. Bartlett Tree Experts takes great pride in caring for this important tree.

And it was standing tall in 1863 as the nation entered its third year of the Civil War. That year, the Emancipation Proclamation was read aloud at the White House to those who gathered for the occasion. The Proclamation, issued by President Abraham Lincoln, declared "that all persons held as slaves" within the Southern states not occupied by the Union Army "are, and henceforth shall be free." The Butler School, named after Gen. Benjamin F. Butler, commander of Fort Monroe, was built near the oak to educate men, women and children fleeing slavery.

The Emancipation Proclamation accelerated calls for African Americans to have access to formal education, which had been previously forbidden by Virginia law. From that moment, the Emancipation Oak was granted the quiet historical significance that continues to inspire those who visit the stately tree today.

The tree also has historic significance for Bartlett Tree Experts. In 1905, Francis Alonzo Bartlett was hired out of college to teach horticulture and supervise the nursery and orchards on the very grounds where the Emancipation Oak grows—then known as the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute. Two years later, Bartlett went on to launch his company. The school, which was founded in 1868 for formerly enslaved African Americans and their descendants, was later renamed Hampton University.

"It's such a privilege to be able to work on the largest and

oldest organisms on the planet," says Alan Jones, vice president and division manager of Bartlett's Piedmont Division. "Caring for one of such historic significance is just the icing on the cake." Jones adds that "scientific tree care has been the focus of Bartlett Tree Expert company for 115 years, ever since the founder, F.A. Bartlett, taught and kept his research plot here at Hampton University. We are honored to put our scientific expertise to work taking care of the Emancipation Oak."

Last May, a team of Bartlett Tree Experts arborists, which included Jones; Dr. Kelby Fite, vice president and director of research at the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories; Dan Lonergan, local manager of the Williamsburg office; and Bobby Nance, arborist representative from the Chesapeake office, visited the Emancipation Oak to assess the tree's relative health, structural integrity, and growing environment.

Nance said he'd always known about this remarkable tree but had never seen it until the team's visit. "I get chills walking underneath it," he said, "knowing how much it means to a lot of people."

The Bartlett team recorded observations and developed a long-term plan for the care of the Emancipation Oak. They determined the tree was—from a biological standpoint—in good health considering its age (it's estimated to be over 300 years old) and that it is growing in the northern-most point of its range. "As a species, live oaks are known to be very durable and hearty," the team summarized. "The Emancipation Oak is no exception."

The Bartlett team found there were no significant signs of decay in the trunk or root flare. They noted some older cabling and lightning protection was present. Additionally, the team observed that people were frequently walking underneath the tree to marvel at the grandeur and history of



the Emancipation Oak, which raised concerns about soil compaction. The Bartlett team informed Dr. William Harvey, president of Hampton University, that management strategies should include treatments for insect pests, soil care, mulching and regular inspections to ensure plant health. They also recommended that additional fencing be installed to restrict access to the critical root zone of the tree.

"The tree has always been a landmark ever since I can remember," said retired Hampton History Museum curator J. Michael Cobb. Over the years, he has taken tour groups to the Emancipation Oak to tell its story. "I know the University takes great care of the tree because it is very important to them," Cobb said, adding, "the oak looks to be in good shape."

Dan Lonergan, the arborist representative from Bartlett's Williamsburg office, who is responsible for the ongoing care of the Emancipation Oak, said Bartlett plant health care

crews have provided treatment to protect the tree from boring insects. In addition to structural pruning, new cables were installed and the lightning protection updated. Periodic inspections are carried out "just to check up on the tree so we can address any issues," Lonergan said.

When he works on the tree, Lonergan said the historic importance is something powerful that he can feel in the air beneath the branches. "I feel like there is this power around the tree," he said. "There is a major highway nearby, and the hustle and bustle of the school. Every time I am there, the tree dominates a calm in all this hustle." 🌱





Botanical artist Françoise Weeks, armed with a plethora of supplies and foraged material, demonstrates the art of her unique wearable art at a special botanical workshop held in Tuckahoe GC of Westhampton member Maria Reed's barn.



GROW YOUR KNOWLEDGE

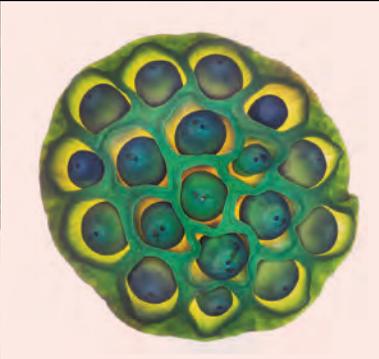
GCV CELEBRATES THE SUCCESS OF THE 2022 SYMPOSIUM

The Garden Club of Virginia's bi-annual Symposium, *Grow Your Knowledge*, chaired by Jennifer Kelley (The Garden Club of Alexandria) and Dawn Byrd (The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore), took place on September 20 and 21 at the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond, and was enthusiastically attended by nearly 300 people.

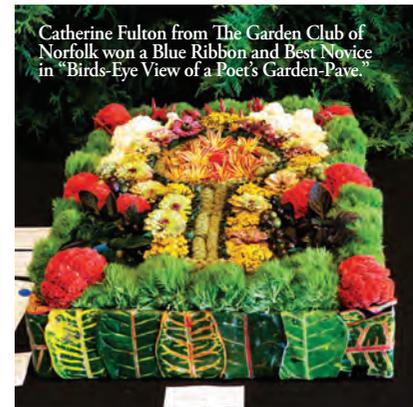
All photos by Susan Lendermon, Edie Hessberg, Terri Lowman and Robert Llewellyn



L-R: Shaun Spencer-Hester, CEO of the Anne Spencer House and Garden Museum with Symposium Co-Chairman Jennifer Kelley. Spencer-Hester's presentation was one of the most thought-provoking among the Symposium's dynamic two-day lineup.



GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA
Symposium
RICHMOND 2022



Catherine Fulton from The Garden Club of Norfolk won a Blue Ribbon and Best Novice in "Birds-Eye View of a Poet's Garden-Pave."



Keynote speaker Thomas Woltz with Debbie Lewis, Jean Gilpin and Kris Carbone. Woltz wowed the audience with his presentation, "New Visions for the Old Dominion: Social and Ecological Sustainability in the Designed Landscapes of Nelson Byrd Woltz."



An award-winning photographer for over 40 years, Robert Llewellyn's images are central to numerous publications including *Remarkable Trees of Virginia*.





ABOVE: GCV President Debbie Lewis flanked by Tuckahoe GC members and Flower Show award winners: L – Meredith Lauter accepts the Quad Blue Award for her club's entry in the Interclub Division, Food Flash, R – Peyton Wells won a Tri-Color Award in the Individual/ Partner Division with Jennifer Rector for "Shaken Not Stirred."



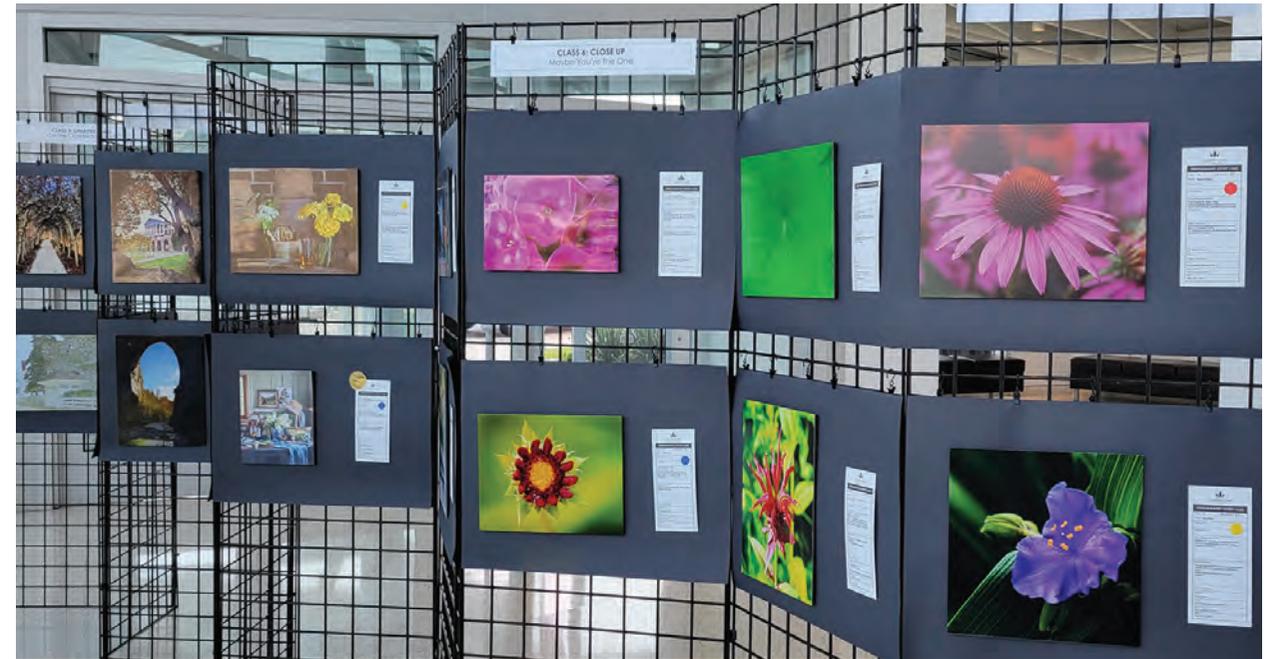
ABOVE LEFT: Roanoke Valley GC's winning Flower Show Interclub entry, "Breaking News."



BELOW & AT LEFT: Flower Show horticulture exhibits



Mix it up! A mixologist made botanically inspired cocktails on stage and gave attendees plenty of opportunity to socialize.



Photography entries on display at the Symposium, all taken by GCV club members.

GCV members and garden lovers from across the state enjoyed two days of informative presentations and inspiring speakers including the internationally recognized landscape architect Thomas Woltz and botanical arts wizard Françoise Weeks, who traveled from Portland, Ore.

Photographer Robert Llewellyn discussed his unique way of capturing nature through a camera lens and introduced a nearly sold-out audience to the art of microphotography.

Bartlett Tree Experts, one of the event's sponsors, explored the culture and history of boxwood and shared management tips in the era of boxwood blight. At their information table, they generously offered hundreds of free tree

saplings to event attendees, which were eagerly accepted, and have surely found new homes in landscapes across Virginia.

Other presentations, both ticketed and with no admission fee, added to the educational nature of the Symposium, with programs spread throughout the Science Museum's extensive campus and taking place simultaneously.

A full-scale flower show, showcasing specimens from the late-season garden and arrangements brimming with creativity and color, incorporated horticulture, artistic design and two photography exhibits, adding to the lush beauty and excitement of the event. The Conservation Committee created an informative display on invasive plant species and environmentally safe alternatives.

Guests, speakers and sponsors enjoyed Mix It Up!, a festive party that featured a mixologist who made botanically inspired cocktails on stage and gave attendees plenty of opportunity to socialize with their GCV friends from near and far.

—Karen Cauthen Ellsworth, Historic Garden Week and Special Programs Director





a star filled October

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

By Katherine Fulghum Knopf, Roanoke Valley Garden Club

It was a star-filled three days at the Hotel Roanoke, October 18-20, as leadership from the Garden Club of Virginia met for the annual Board of Governors. GCV President Debbie Lewis was joined by club presidents and board members for an action- and information-packed event, which included meetings, tours of tree plantings and art galleries, and an enthusiastic and inspirational exchange of ideas. Roanoke Valley Garden Club, this year's BOG host club, welcomed club members for *A Star-filled October*.

From a Dutch treat dinner on top of Center in the Square to self-guided tours of downtown art galleries and Roanoke Valley Garden Club's community project tree plantings along city streets and in Elmwood Park, the event's itinerary was thoughtfully planned. Some guests traveled to Mill Mountain to see the city's iconic star and newly restored Wildflower Garden.

The meeting's horticulture exhibit, the *Star of Your Garden*, required that specimens be a native, nativar or pollinator, so a myriad of beautiful blooms, foliage, berries, seed pods, and tree branches were displayed in colorful bottles and jars. Roanoke Valley Garden Club provided silver stars for each club to place



GCV Treasurer Tricia McDaniel (The Rappahannock Valley GC) and Nominations Committee Chairman Catherine Madden (The Lynchburg GC)



Immediate Past President Missy Buckingham (The Boxwood GC) and former President Kim Nash (The Warrenton GC)



L-R: Rennie McDaniel, president, The Rappahannock Valley GC; Anne Avery, president, The Augusta GC; Katherine Knopf, Board of Governors Co-chairman, Roanoke Valley GC; Virginia Gillock, District 2 Director at Large, The Augusta GC.

on their display that indicated which specimens were from member gardens. Horticulture stars lit up the exhibit with plant material from gardens all over Virginia.

After lunch on Wednesday, GCV President Debbie Lewis officially started the meeting and Board members and committee chairmen gave their reports and shared information for club presidents to take home to their clubs.

Wednesday evening cocktails were followed by dinner and the Awards Banquet, where centerpieces of pumpkins topped with turkey feathers, moss, succulents, acorns and pinecones lent a festive, fall feel.

The much-anticipated Common Wealth Award recipients were also announced. First place went to Three Chopt Garden Club's horticulture therapy project at the Virginia Treatment Center for Children in Richmond, and second place was awarded to The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore for its beautification and conservation of Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence campus project. 🌿

COMMON WEALTH AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to:

FIRST PLACE:

Three Chopt Garden Club

PROJECT: VA Treatment Center for Children, Horticulture Therapy Project

SECOND PLACE:

The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

PROJECT: Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence campus beautification and renovation

Photos courtesy of Donna Moulton and Leslie Magee



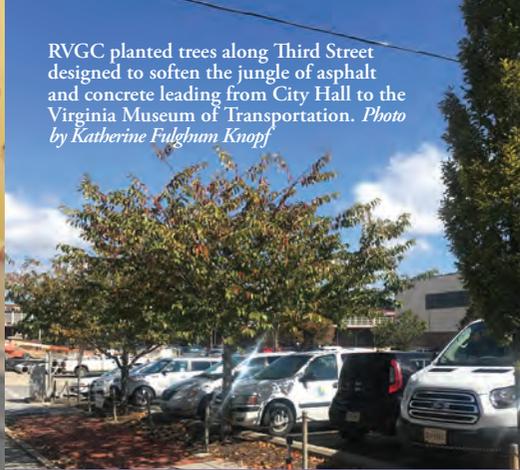
L-R: Beth Anne Revercomb, Betty Lou Kienle, Kelly Ellis, Cyndi Fletcher, Joyce Rice, Marylee Burnstein, Koiner Thomas, Tallulah Gregory and Becca Stinson celebrate Roanoke Valley Garden Club's awards after a flower show.

ROANOKE VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

97 Years

A STORIED HISTORY: 1925-2022

By Katherine Fulghum Knopf, Roanoke Valley Garden Club



RVGC planted trees along Third Street designed to soften the jungle of asphalt and concrete leading from City Hall to the Virginia Museum of Transportation. Photo by Katherine Fulghum Knopf

"It was a lovely day in April that Blanche (Mrs. Davis) called me over the phone saying, 'Miss Minnie, I want you to come over here tomorrow morning to help organize a garden club.' That meeting proved to be for the election of officers. It was done in this fashion which, as far as I knew, was the way to do it. Blanche said to me, 'Miss Minnie, you are the president.' I said, 'I AM NOT!' She said, 'Yes, you are,' and so I was the president."

—Miss Minnie Stone, RVGC First President reflects on the founding of RVGC

Photos courtesy of Roanoke Valley Garden Club

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Community projects are also a focus of Roanoke Valley Garden Club. The first garden we developed was in Elmwood Park in 1926. In 2012, our club celebrated this collaboration by planting eight lacebark elm trees along the Art Walk during the renovation of Elmwood Park.

We excel in planting trees. We contributed tree seedlings to the City Tree Nursery in 1931, and a decade later we had planted over 400 of those mature seedlings along the city streets. Between 1925 and the early '90s, our community projects included planting pine trees behind the tennis courts at Crystal Spring and landscaping at the Transportation Museum.

In 1941-42 Mrs. Garland Hopkins (Maude) led the charge for preservation of the entire frontier town of Fincastle. Inspired, the Garden Club of Virginia undertook the restoration of the Fincastle Presbyterian Church there.

In the recent decade we planted native fruit and berry bushes at the Growing Goodwill Community Garden across from a low-income housing complex in Northwest Roanoke. We planted nine trees along Third Street that runs from our City Hall building to the

Virginia Museum of Transportation. These city blocks—with asphalt parking, brick buildings, and bare sidewalks—have benefited from rehabilitation and renovation. The greening of this area is a priority as it leads to the transportation Museum entrance, a club project; we plant the railyards each year to soften the metal and gravel railyard full of historic trains.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2022

Roanoke Valley entertained its GCV sisters and brothers at Hotel Roanoke, a historic hotel that graces the entry way to our city, in late October for the Board of Governors Meeting, the second time RVGC has hosted this important GCV conference. The hotel's iconic grounds serve as a bright spot in downtown Roanoke where Roanoke Valley Garden Club has a strong commitment to our city's viability and beautification. The Virginia Museum of Transportation—the state transportation museum—makes its home across the train tracks by the hotel. Today the beds at the Virginia Museum of Transportation, on the Roanoke River Greenway and at the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, keep our members busy and continue our dedication to preserving, conserving and improving our city.

As Miss Minnie always said to Blanche, "Happy Gardening." 🌿

BELOW: Vintage RVGC photo, L-R: B.J. Preas, Jodi Gurley, Ann Hurt, Pat Lawson, Joan Martin, Bish Lester, and Stu Yates gather the evening before a flower show.

In 1934 Roanoke Valley took a leadership role organizing the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs with the mission of city beautification. Preserving the beauty of the state has been a constant priority.



RVGC celebrated its decades-long collaboration with Elmwood Park by planting eight lacebark elms along Art Walk during the park's renovation. Photo by Katherine Fulghum Knopf

RVGC ACCOLADES & MEETINGS

MASSIE MEDAL

- 1930: tree planting in Elmwood Park
- 1986: Bish Lester for her expertise in flower arranging and generosity to share her knowledge
- 1996: Elizabeth "Betsy" Varner for her service to the GCV
- 2014: Mary Ann Johnson for her work with GCV Restorations

DELACY GRAY MEDAL FOR CONSERVATION

1969: Maude Hopkins for her restoration work on the town of Fincastle

COMMON WEALTH AWARDS

- 1985: for the garden at the Roanoke Transportation Museum
- 1999: for the plants and planters at the Virginia Museum of Transportation

ANNUAL MEETINGS

- 1932: host of the 13th GCV Annual Meeting
- 1953: co-host, with Mill Mountain Garden Club, of the 33rd GCV Annual Meeting
- 1987: host of the 58th GCV Annual Meeting
- 2011: host of the 91st GCV Annual Meeting

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- 1969: host of the 55th Board of Governors Meeting
- 2022: host of the 103rd Board of Governors Meeting

Roanoke Valley Garden Club was founded in April 1925. It was the first garden club in Roanoke City. It soon inspired seven garden clubs to organize: Mill Mountain, Magic City, Greenwood Road, Alleghany, Wasena, Mountain View and Big Lick.

In 1929, RVGC became the 16th member club of the Garden Club of Virginia. That same year, Historic Garden Week was born.

Today our membership consists of 62 active members and 47 associate members. We maintain our core values—arranging, conservation, horticulture and community projects. Over the years, our Club entered horticulture and artistic arrangements in each of the Garden Club of Virginia shows: Daffodil, Lily and Rose. Our members past and present hold many blue ribbons and awards.

FLOWER SHOWS

In May 1934, the state peony show was held in Roanoke. The Secretary of the American Peony Society, Mr. George W Peyton, gave the opening address. This signaled many more flowers shows in Roanoke, including many that were co-hosted with Mill Mountain Garden Club through the years.

Flower arranging brings out the best in RVGC members. In the 1970s, RVGC member Ruth Morris took our club by storm with her training workshops. GCV noticed and invited her to teach workshops on the art of flower arranging. Roanoke Valley won 14 tri-color awards during those years thanks to the leadership of Betty Ruth Fletcher and Bish Lester. During that time, the club started serving refreshments—in silver cups.

The energy took off, and our flower show teams continued winning many tri-color awards over the next four decades. In 2010, Roanoke Valley won Quad Blue for our daffodil entry with Cyndi Fletcher and Rosemary Francis leading the charge.

In 1934 Roanoke Valley took a leadership role organizing the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs with the mission of coordinating city beautification. Preserving the beauty of the state has been a constant priority. We endorsed the Bottle Bill and supported stricter billboard regulations. Recycling initiatives are important to our club, and we instituted a recycling program at Roanoke Council of Garden Club Headquarters. Additionally, RVGC supports the moratorium on uranium mining.

2022 Gift Giving Guide

WHAT GCV GARDENERS
ARE GIVING THIS
HOLIDAY SEASON



DISCLAIMER: The Garden Club of Virginia does not endorse or promote any products contained herein.



SANTA'S ON HIS WAY, BUT IF YOU'RE STILL IN THE MARKET FOR THAT PERFECT SOMETHING FOR THE GARDENER IN YOUR LIFE, CONSIDER THIS HOLIDAY ROUNDUP, FILLED WITH GIFT-GIVING IDEAS GALORE AND COURTESY OF GCV CLUB MEMBERS AROUND THE STATE.



- Herb scissors
- Beeswax wraps
- Calfskin garden gloves
- Garden tool set
- Biodegradable kitchen cloths

—**Vicki Levering**
The Garden Club of the Northern Neck



- Rain barrel
- Pair of Katsuna pruners
- Hori-hori knife
- Batch of seeds or gift certificate from Southern Exposure Seed catalog
- An attractive frost-free flower pot ... the larger the better

—**Carol Carter**
Albemarle Garden Club



- A donation to GCV honoring a friend
- Pots of paperwhites and amaryllis
- Daffodil bulbs
- Fresh gardening gloves

—**Linda Holden**
The Augusta Garden Club



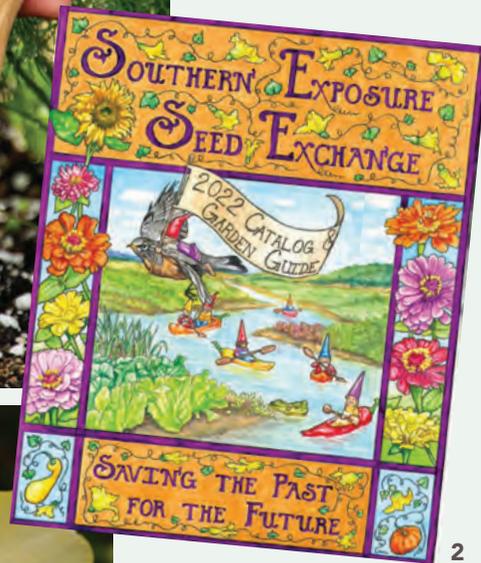
- Leatherbound garden journal
- Birdfeeder and seed
- Botanical arts painting class, online or in person
- Garden bench—as an honorarium or memorial gift to a local park or garden

—**Allison Clock**
The Garden Club of Hampton Roads, GCV Horticulture Committee Chairman





1



2



3



4



1. Hori-hori knives are often touted as the tool to have in the garden. They dig, saw, whack, prune, measure and more. This one is lighter than most and is made from high-quality chrome molybdenum steel. It's \$32.99 from GardensAlive.com.

2. Southern Exposure Seed Exchange in Mineral, Va., offers approximately 800 varieties of vegetable, flower, herb, grain and cover crop seeds that start at about \$2.50 per packet. With an emphasis on varieties that perform well in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast, about 60 percent of the seeds they offer are Certified Organic, 60 percent are grown by small farmers, and none are chemically treated. An added bonus is perusing quite possibly the most charming catalog ever published. SouthernExposure.com

3. Bulbs are gifts that reap benefits for years and years. And as an added bonus, Gloucester's own Brent & Becky's offers its Bloomin' Bucks program, which returns 25 percent of purchases to registered nonprofits. Curl up with their catalog, online or in print, and browse their extensive collection. BrentandBeckysBulbs.com

4. This leatherbound garden journal with a long leather strap from The Celtic Farm is 6"x 9" and has three kinds of paper—blank, lined, and grid—for notes, drawing and designing. \$60. Shop.TheCelticFarm.com

5. Womanswork features products "designed for the way women work." Their **High Performance Gardening Gloves** with Vent Max are cool and breathable, with a ventilation panel on the back of the hand, tool-gripping palm patches and reinforced fingertips. They're machine washable and come in bold, color block patterns. \$28. WomansWork.com

Gift Giving Guide

1



2



1. Toss stinky sponges in favor of these **biodegradable kitchen cloths**. They're plant-based, eco-friendly and reusable and come in fun patterns like sunflowers and sea turtles. Super durable and compostable, these handy cloths go from kitchen to bath to shower in a jiffy. \$6.95. GreenOceanCo.com

2. Domestika is an online community for creative types that offers virtual art classes, including those in **botanical illustration and drawing**. For something more up-close and personal, check out your local botanical garden or museum. The State Arboretum in Boyce, Va., sponsors a Plein Air Group and the Blandy Sketch Group; Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond and the Norfolk Botanical Garden both offer a variety of botanical art classes. Prices vary. Domestika.org, LewisGinter.org, Blandy.Virginia.edu

3. Rain barrels capture water and encourage responsible water consumption. Available in all sorts of shapes and sizes, a quick Google search will reveal traditional styles, many offered by localities and municipalities. The EPA's website lists availability by state. This urn, from Gardener's Supply Company, is stylish and shapely, and with a 65-gallon capacity, it's high on aesthetics. It's made of UV-stable, scratch- and chip-resistant polyethylene and is \$299. Gardeners.com, EPA.gov

4. Herb scissors are like magic. Mincing fresh herbs becomes a breeze, and they also do wonders shredding expired credit cards. Available from Crate & Barrel and Williams Sonoma. On Amazon, they're \$5.99.

3



4



snips

NEWS FROM GCV CLUBS

GCV DISTRICT 1

The Ashland Garden Club

ASHLAND

The Ashland Garden Club, founded on October 12, 1922, is celebrating its Centennial this year with events planned all year. We began our meeting season on September 8 with a group photo taken at Miss Mary McDermott Beirne's house, Rhodeen, on the campus of Randolph-Macon College. Miss Mary, initially a member of The James River Garden Club in Richmond, was instrumental in founding The Ashland Garden Club and was elected its first president at the inaugural meeting in 1922. That first meeting was attended by 30 ladies, all active gardeners. Their goal was to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening among amateurs—still our club's aim today. They decided to meet monthly in members' homes, limiting membership to 30.

Officers were elected officers, dues were set at \$1 and payments were recorded for all 30 members.

Special commemorative plans will take place throughout the fall and into 2023. The Ashland Museum is designing a new exhibit on The Ashland Garden Club with a private opening for the club. This year's *Fall Fantasy* was held on the club's actual 100th anniversary date, and a special birthday cake was served. A lovely gala in



Members of The Ashland Garden Club, September 2022, in front of Rhodeen. Photos courtesy of The Ashland Garden Club; RIGHT: An early photo of Ashland Garden Club members, September 16, 1936.



February 2023 will allow club members and their guests to celebrate at the Kent-Valentine House. In March, a tea party will take place to honor our past presidents, and members will be attired in dress and accessories appropriate for 1922. Gifts to the community will also be part of the centennial celebration, including the planting of hundreds of daffodils to provide bright spots of beauty in spring for years to come. It's an exciting time for the members of The Ashland Garden Club.

—Sharon Stiles



District 2 Presidents' Luncheon L-R: Trudy Melvin, Blue Ridge GC; Ann Demaso, Charlottesville GC; Bobbi Oldham, Hillside GC; Sherry Leffel, Spotswood GC; Lisa Richards, Lynchburg GC; Jane Hammond, Dolley Madison GC; Virginia Gillock, DAL District 2; Anne Avery, The Augusta GC.

GCV DISTRICT 2

District 2 Presidents' Luncheon

Seven of the nine garden club presidents from GCV's District 2, along with District 2's Director at Large, got together at the end of the summer at Pippin Hill Farm and Vineyard outside of Charlottesville. They attended a tour of the kitchen garden, led by

horticulturist Diane Burns, followed by an informal meeting. It was a gorgeous day and the outing was productive and fun.

—Virginia Gillock

Hillside Garden Club

LYNCHBURG

It is with great excitement that we announce to our supporters that the Anne Spencer House and Garden Museum has received \$150,000 from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, to "broaden the public's understanding of the Black experience in America." This generous grant will be used to hire a full-time director and ensure that the museum and garden are well-tended and fiscally sound for future generations to enjoy. The Anne Spencer House and Garden Museum was one of 33 organizations

throughout the country that received funding in 2022. The Action Fund's goal is to protect and preserve sites representing African American history.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of Nell Holt and Jane White, the Hillside Garden Club began restoring this important landscape in 1983. Since then, it has twice received the GCV's Common Wealth Award, once in 1985 and a second time in 2009. Hillside GC, the Lynchburg Community Trust and the Cultural Landscape Foundation are all supporters.

The Anne Spencer House and Garden Museum was extensively featured in the Late Winter 2022



issue of the *Journal* by Roanoke Valley Garden Club member Katherine Fulghum Knopf, who is also a member of the *Journal* Committee. Katherine spoke at length to Shaun Spencer-Hester, Anne Spencer's granddaughter, who is the president and CEO of the Anne Spencer House and Garden Museum and was a featured speaker at the GCV Symposium, *Grow Your Knowledge*, in September.

Make a trip to 1313 Pierce Street. Anne Spencer's writing cottage, "Edenkraal," and her garden were her oases from the outside world. There, with skillful hands and help from her husband, Edward, she became a force for creativity and change. Anne was an important member of a group of artists and intellectuals that comprised the Harlem Renaissance. She was the first Black Virginian poet to have work published in the *Norton Anthology of American Poetry*. She was involved in the civil rights movement and held the founding meeting of the Lynchburg NAACP at her home.

Hillside Garden Club takes great pride in recognizing and helping maintain this culturally significant property.

—Kaye Moomaw

GCV DISTRICT 3

The Hampton Roads Garden Club & The Huntington Garden Club

NEWPORT NEWS-HAMPTON

Children from a summer program at the Newport News Harbour Apartments and five members from The Hampton Roads and Huntington Garden clubs spent a hot July morning on a nature scavenger hunt on the apartment complex grounds. Members created a "Can You Spot It?" identification sheet, with common plant names and matching photos for the hunt, and then helped the children

LEFT: Hillside Garden Club provided support for the restoration of the lattice garden structure Edward Spencer built for his wife Anne. It has become one of the garden's most iconic features. Photo courtesy of the Anne Spencer House & Garden Museum

use it to locate trees, plants, shrubs and flowers. Once all the objects were found, the young residents peered through kid-friendly microscopes and magnifying glasses to their collections of leaves, flower petals, tree bark, and mushrooms. "We were thrilled that apartment resident resource manager Drusilla Pair reached out to our local GCV clubs to create a program for these youngsters," Mary Johnson, Hampton Roads GC President says. "We had so much fun watching the kids look at the plant life that they had found, and we look forward to planning more hands-on activities for residents of all ages in the coming year."

As a parting gift, each child left with an observation notebook to be used for future adventures in scientific discovery.

—Pam Henifin



ABOVE: Huntington GC President Becky Fitchett helps a future botanist use "Can You Spot It?" to ID plant material. Later the participant uses a microscope to examine his haul from the scavenger hunt. Photos by Mary Johnson.



ABOVE: Drusilla Pair, Newport News Harbour Apartments resident resources manager, third from left, is surrounded by Hampton Roads GC and Huntington GC members, L-R, Martha Elton, Mary Johnson, Pam Henifin, Sidney Jordan and Becky Fitchett. Photo by Mary Johnson.

GCV DISTRICT 5

Leesburg Garden Club

LEESBURG

Leesburg GC held its second fundraiser in April at Selma Mansion. The home of leading Loudoun County philanthropists Sharon Virts and Scott Miller, the elegant estate dates to the early 19th century. After years of neglect and disrepair, the couple



Top, L-R: Past Leesburg GC president Suzi Worsham; Sharon Virts pictured with the Travis Perpetual Crystal Vase; LGC president Sally Travis. Photo courtesy of Judy Gerow

purchased the property in 2016 and completely restored it to its former glory. Now they generously share Selma as an event venue, raising funds for educational projects throughout the area.

The club presented Sharon the Travis Perpetual Crystal Vase, which is awarded annually to a member who has exemplified outstanding fundraising leadership in support of the Leesburg GC's Community Outreach Projects.

Sharon and Scott are especially dedicated to supporting children's education. The two fundraisers hosted at Selma have allowed our club to establish our Loudoun County Children's Education Fund. The grants presented include:

- Lucketts Elementary School received \$1,125 for the establishment of a milkweed habitat, weather station and vegetable garden to be installed in the inner courtyard of the school.

- Tuscarora High School received \$2,000 for native plants and a Monarch Waystation in the inner courtyard of the school, along with native tree and shrub plantings to improve the courtyard area.

Our Children's Education Fund currently has \$10,000 to be distributed to local projects. We anticipate publishing an RFP asking for grant requests. During the last round, we received 11 requests and visited eight sites, which included A Farm Less Ordinary, an organization that provides employment opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities, the offices of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and six schools. The club's Finance Committee had a fine time meeting and interviewing representatives of these deserving groups.

—Judy Gerow



what's the buzz?

FOR EVERY SEASON, THERE IS A BEE

By Heidi James, The Lynchburg Garden Club

I started paying close attention in my garden after reading Doug Tallamy's book, *Nature's Best Hope*. I took him up on his challenge to look carefully at nature in my own yard. One sentence in his book proved true in an unexpected way: "What you



"What you see today will be different tomorrow, as the seasonal progression of the species in your yard changes daily."
—Doug Tallamy

see today will be different tomorrow, as the seasonal progression of the species in your yard changes daily." Of course I knew this to be true, but I was fascinated to discover that my garden was home to many different types of bees that I had never seen or heard of before. What a shock! I had no idea so much was happening in my garden.

I began researching and figured out that I had discovered native and solitary bees. I had only ever known about honeybees, bumblebees and sweat bees, but there are hundreds of other

types of bees in Virginia. Native bees come in all shapes, sizes and colors. Some are smaller than a grain of rice, some are metallic green, some carry pollen on their stomachs, some live in sticks, others live in the ground, and they all have specific times of emergence. Some come out in the very early spring and are finished with their work by early summer, while others don't emerge until the summer and linger here until the fall. These gentle native bees have become my favorites and watching them has become my favorite pastime. I love

ABOVE LEFT: Bumblebee gathering pollen
LEFT: Blue Orchard mason bee
BELOW: Bumblebee gathering pollen



observing them as they go about their important work.

I have learned that there are approximately 400 different species of native bees in Virginia. So far, I have been able to identify about 20 species in my garden. I have been using the Blandy Bee Inventory website (see sidebar) to confirm the species. Native bees are considered a "keystone" species, meaning that they are central to the food web and our ecosystem and thus to our own well-being. Native bees are excellent pollinators and essential to the pollination of many of our crops, native plants, shrubs and trees that support our wildlife, forests and wetlands.

"Native bees are considered a 'keystone' species, meaning that they are central to the food web and our ecosystem and thus to our own well-being."

We literally cannot do without them.

About one-third of our native bees emerge between late February and early April. The earliest bees in my garden have been mining bees and Blue Orchard mason bees, followed by sweat bees, bumblebees and carpenter bees. Later in the summer, I have discovered leafcutter bees, wool carder bees (not native) and *Trachusa* bees. Around 25 percent of Eastern native bee species emerge in sync with the bloom of a specific native plant that they co-evolved with. So, if the plant is missing, the bees cannot survive and vice versa.

Most of our native bees are solitary and live alone, unlike honeybees that live in a hive. About 70 percent of our native bees nest in the ground. The rest prefer a hollow stick or crevice. Most native bees emerge from a cocoon. They quickly mate, and then the female will create nest cells where she places a ball of pollen mixed with nectar on which she lays an egg. When the egg hatches, the larva feeds on the pollen ball and will emerge the following year at the right time for the species.

Our native bumblebees have a different life cycle. They live in a communal hive under the ground in the summer, but the



Bee hotel from CrownBees.com

support bees

To support these vitally important and endangered pollinators, work to improve and increase their habitat by taking these steps:

- Plant native plants that bloom at various times during the year.
- Use the Plant Virginia Natives website to identify native plants that thrive in your specific area: PlantVirginiaNatives.org
- Avoid pesticides.
- Plant a bee lawn. Grass seed mixes now include low growing, bee-friendly flowers that are beneficial to pollinators.
- Leave the leaves and skip the mulch so the bees can get to the soil.
- Try a bee house or hotel. Check out the Crown Bees website (CrownBees.com) to learn about bee hotels and proper care.
- Learn more at the State Arboretum's website: Blandy.Virginia.edu/Bee-Diversity



THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA'S HEALTHY YARD CHALLENGE

- Pollinator Plants
- Organic Lawn and Garden Care
- Integrated Pest Management
- Protecting our Watersheds and Drinking Water



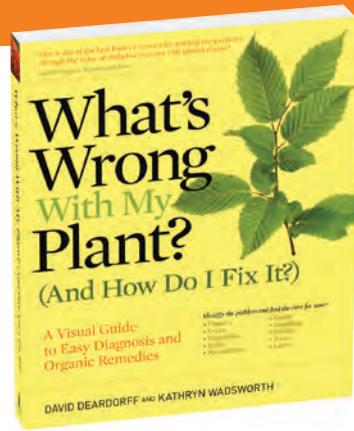


Expand your horizons this winter and curl up with a good book. Some of our picks are brand new, some are older titles ... some are poetic and lyrical, others dispense no-nonsense advice. Whichever you choose, they're all guaranteed to be great additions to your gardening library.

Where the Deer and the Antelope Play

NICK OFFERMAN

Where the Deer and the Antelope Play: The Pastoral Observations of One Ignorant American Who Loves to Walk Outside—a self-described “ramble through and celebration of the land we all love”—is a delight. Written by Nick Offerman, comedian, actor, humorist, and who knew? extremely talented woodworker, who pontificates on the history and philosophy of our relationship with nature in our national parks, on our farms, and in our backyards, dives into conservation and the importance of outdoor recreation, all with acerbic prose and a wry wit. Some may know him as husband of the actress Meghan Mullally (of Will & Grace fame) with whom he took a 2020 trip across the U.S. in 2020 in an Airstream trailer. But what you may not know is that he is an authentic champion of the environment, a lover of the land—from its bedrock to its topsoil and counts Wendell Berry among his friends. (Dutton, 2021, \$28, 352 pages)



What's Wrong with My Plant? (And How Do I Fix It?)

DAVID DEARDORFF & KATHRYN WADSWORTH

What's Wrong with My Plant? (And How Do I Fix It?), according to Bob Villa, is one of the best gardening books ever. Though it may be a little long in the tooth (it was published well over a decade ago), it remains helpful and remarkably current, covering 400 of the most common plant problems. An easy-to-follow visual system for diagnosing diseases, insect infestations, nutrient issues and more makes it a fantastic resource tool. All recommended solutions follow organic best practices, which many readers will find refreshing. Written by David Deardorff and Kathryn Wadsworth (Timber Press, 2009, \$29.95, 452 pages)

My Garden (Book)

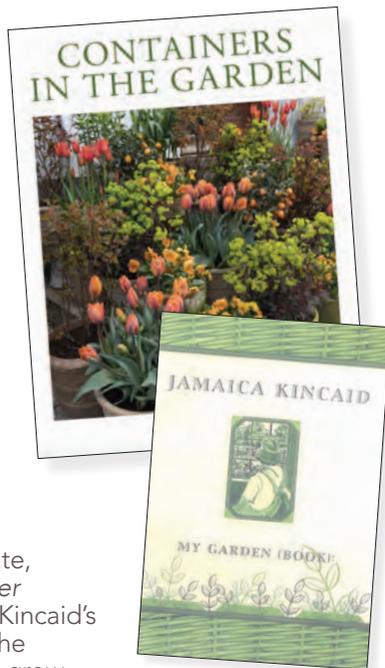
JAMAICA KINCAID

My Garden (Book) is a passionate, poetic collection of *The New Yorker* column essays exploring Jamaica Kincaid's relationship with her garden and the plants she grows there—or fails to grow. She weaves botanical and colonial history with personal stories of the intuitive way she grew her garden in Vermont and musings about the landscape in her native Antigua. Kincaid is interested in ownership, displacement and the history of botanical classification, asking us to examine imperial history and ancestral memory within the context of the garden. (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2001, \$18, 240 pages)

Containers In The Garden

CLAUS DALBY

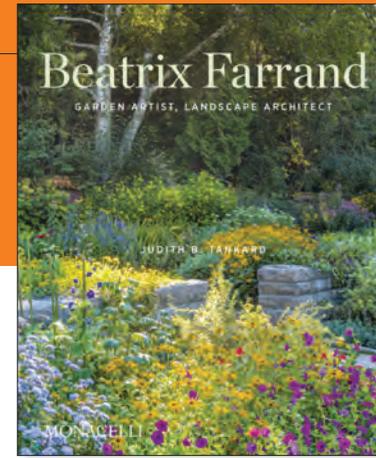
Planters work in every garden setting from front porches to patios and decks, even well-placed in beds and borders. *Containers in the Garden*, by Claus Dalby, explains how to create beautiful container gardens for every space. With suggested plant combinations for all seasons and manner of taste—whether multi-colored or monochromatic, winter or spring—you'll learn how to reduce maintenance and keep your pots lush and beautiful. This is the definitive guide for creating stylish containers all year long. (Cool Springs Press, 2022, \$30, 176 pages)



The Flower Hunter: Seasonal Flowers Inspired by Nature And Gathered From The Garden

LUCY HUNTER

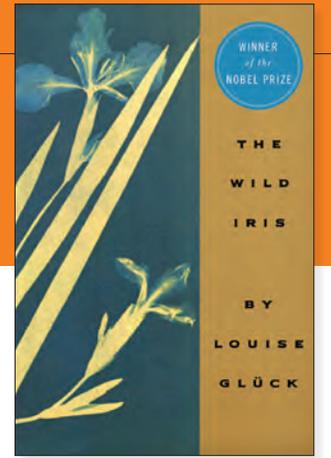
Visual storyteller Lucy Hunter creates stunning floral and garden art, inspired by her travels around the globe and the raw beauty of her rural retreat, gardens and studio in the mountains of North Wales. *The Flower Hunter: Seasonal Flowers Inspired by Nature and Gathered from the Garden* showcases Hunter's floral artistry in breathtaking naturalistic arrangements. The book traces her own garden through every season and guides readers through tips for creating arrangements and floral-related projects. This is equally appealing as a coffee table addition or as inspiration for showcasing your favorite flowers in your own cutting garden. (Ryland, Peters and Small, 2021, \$40, 208 pages)



Beatrix Farrand: Garden Artist, Landscape Architect

JUDITH TANKARD

Beatrix Farrand, one of the world's first female landscape architects, designed gardens for the Rockefellers, the Morgans and the Roosevelts, as well as Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria, Va., a GCV restoration site. Her work can be seen on the campuses of Princeton and Yale and in public gardens like the Rose Garden at the New York Botanical Garden. She drew heavily on the influence of English garden designer Gertrude Jekyll and was known for expertly integrating large expanses of lawn with deep borders. *Beatrix Farrand: Garden Artist, Landscape Architect*, by Judith Tankard, updated from its original version more than a decade ago, provides a definitive look at Farrand's life and the lasting impact of her amazing gardens. (Monicelli Press, 2022, \$60, 248 pages)



The Wild Iris

LOUISE GLÜCK

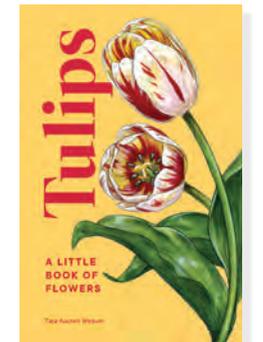
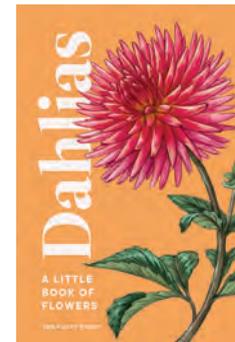
Poet and essayist Louise Glück, who won the 2020 Nobel Prize in Literature, is known for the emotional intensity of her poetry and for frequently drawing on mythology and nature to meditate on personal experiences and modern life. *The Wild Iris*, a book of poems awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry in 1993, covers a year in the poet's garden and portrays the creative interplay between words and plants, the page and the natural world. Glück deftly conveys the strange elasticity of time in a garden—the longevity and simultaneous transience. Plants speak poems, perspectives shift, material and spiritual worlds collide. She explores the cycles of nature, death and rebirth in precise, sharp language in this intimate exploration of loss, longing and beauty. (Ecco, 1993, \$14.99, 63 pages)



Little Book of Flowers

TARA AUSTEN WEAVER

Next time you're in the market for a hostess gift, consider arriving with a bouquet of either edition in Tara Austen Weaver's *Little Book of Flowers* series. *Peonies*, *Dahlias* and *Tulips* are available, with additional volumes in the works. Illustrated by Emily Poole, the books are delightful and include snappy discussions of the origins of the species, cultivation techniques and suggestions for display. The charm of the series lies especially in Poole's art. (Penguin Random House, 2022, \$14.95, 150 pages)



GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

90th Historic Garden Week

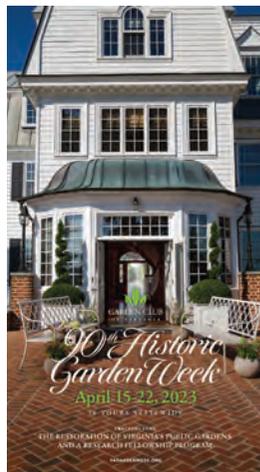
All photos by Donna Moulton



Flowerdeew Hundred

By Karen Cauthen Ellsworth, Director of Historic Garden Week and Special Programs and The Petersburg Garden Club

THE COVER OF THE 2023 HGW GUIDEBOOK



Flowerdeew Hundred, located in Prince George County, will grace the cover of the 2023 Historic Garden Week Guidebook. Presented by The Petersburg Garden Club, this Colonial Revival manor house contains approximately 14,000 square feet of living space and is sited on more than 1,300 acres overlooking the beautiful James River.

The property was granted to Governor George Yeardley in 1618, who named it after his wife Temperance Flowerdeew. By 1621,

Yeardley had built the first windmill in America for grinding corn. Archeological digs on the land have uncovered thousands of artifacts from the late 16th and early 17th centuries, which are now housed at the University of Virginia. A collection of those artifacts will be on display during Petersburg's tour.



Flowerdeew survived the Indian Massacre of 1622, shelling during the Revolutionary War, and the James River crossing of General Ulysses S. Grant's 250,000 troops over a pontoon bridge on their way to the Battle of Petersburg in 1864. Flowerdeew Hundred has seen several owners and three primary structures built over the last 400 years.

David A. Harrison III purchased it in 1967 and is credited for the archeological digs. He began building the current manor home in 1990 and completed it in 1999. With 12 bedrooms, 12 bathrooms, an elevator, expansive areas for entertainment, and extensive grounds, Flowerdeew Hundred is a thoroughly modern home designed to appear timeless.

2024 HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK CALL FOR ENTRIES

Incredibly, it's not too early to start thinking about 2024! Clubs and HGW tour teams that are already procuring homes and gardens to be part of HGW tours in 2024 are encouraged to submit a proposal to be considered for the next Guidebook cover. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Will the house and/or garden be ready to be photographed anytime from mid-April through early May 2023?
- A plant list of what will be blooming on the property this spring would be helpful.
- Consideration is made to ensure that all areas of the state are equally represented and given every opportunity to receive this special attention.
- HGW Region Representatives will present proposals to the full Historic Garden Week committee at its winter meeting. This year, the decision of what property to showcase in 2024 will be made on January 24, 2023.
- Submissions are due by January 23 to Karen Ellsworth, Director of HGW at Karen@VAGardenWeek.org
- For complete information regarding the Guidebook cover selection process, visit the GCV member website in the Historic Garden Week Resources folder. GCVirginia.org

GCV CALENDAR

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK THE GCV CALENDAR ONLINE FOR CURRENT INFORMATION AND UPDATES.



SAVE THE DATES

2023

- March 29 | Daffodil Day, Norfolk Botanical Garden
- April 15-22 | Historic Garden Week
- May 16-18 | GCV Annual Meeting, Winchester
- June 7-8 | Horticulture Field Day, Williamsburg
- June 14 | HGW Boot Camp
- June 21 | Lily Show, Summer Fun!, Orange



CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

Featuring the work of GCV artists on the cover of the *Journal* is a long-standing and much anticipated tradition. Our issues mirror the seasons—spring, summer, fall, winter—and cover art corresponds to those seasons accordingly. If you'd like your artwork to be considered, please email high-resolution jpg files to journal@gcvirginia.org.

Financial Partners for Every Season of Life

No judging.
No jargon.
No wavering.

Tracy Shackelford
Harold Philipsen, CFP®

Husband & Wife led Financial Planning Firm

bleakleytidewater.com | 1215 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Williamsburg, VA | (757) 703-0030

Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advice offered through Bleakley Financial Group, a registered investment advisor and separate entity from LPL Financial.



Periodicals
Postage Paid
574-520
At Richmond, VA
And Additional Offices
Forwarding Service
Requested



<<Mr. John B. Jones
PO Box 1234
City Name, State 12345>>



WE'RE FOR EVERY TREE.

**EXPERT TREE CARE
FOR 115 YEARS —
AND GROWING.**

Magnolia stellata. Magnolia x soulagneana. Better known as Star Magnolia and Saucer Magnolia, these are two of the thousands of species we specialize in. For 115 years, our family-owned company has brought a rare mix of groundbreaking science, award-winning safety practices, and global resources to every tree and shrub care task at hand. Discover how our passion is inspiring one beautiful property after another.

Call **877 BARTLETT** or visit bartlett.com

PRUNING | FERTILIZATION | CABLING & BRACING
INSECT & DISEASE MANAGEMENT | TREE INSPECTIONS
STORM DAMAGE | LIGHTNING PROTECTION | REMOVALS



**BARTLETT
TREE EXPERTS**

SCIENTIFIC TREE CARE SINCE 1907

The F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company