

# GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA JOURNAL

Spring 2024 | Volume LXVIV | No. 1



## INSIDE

**Historic Partnership: Nelson Byrd Woltz and the GCV**

**Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award Finalists | HGW's Archives Project**

**The Green at the Science Museum of Virginia**



# LILIES IN BLOOM: *dazzle!*

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**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 3,500 copies of each issue are mailed to members and subscribers.

A PDF version is available online at [gcvirginia.org](http://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](mailto:journal@gcvirginia.org).

**PUBLICATION SCHEDULE & DEADLINES**

ISSUES	PUBLISHES IN	SUBMISSION DEADLINE	RESERVE DEADLINE
Winter	December	October 15	October 1
Spring	March	January 15	January 1
Summer	June	April 15	April 1
Fall	September	July 15	July 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](http://gcvirginia.org) or contact *Journal* Ad Sales Manager at [journalads@gcvirginia.org](mailto: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.

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**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.

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

The name and address of the publisher is: Garden Club of Virginia, 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, 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 3,500; the number nearest the filing date is 3,446. Other mailed copies average 12. Free distribution averages 0. 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 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  
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Postmaster, please send address changes to:  
 Garden Club of Virginia  
 12 East Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23219  
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**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

Jeanette Cadwallender's name was misspelled in the last edition of the *Journal*. We sincerely regret the error.



14



24

**ABOVE LEFT:**  
Thomas Woltz

**ABOVE RIGHT:**  
Science Museum of Virginia

**COVER ART:**  
*Purple Mountain Majesty*,  
by Sarah Wilkinson,  
Albemarle Garden Club

*Contents*

Spring 2024 Journal

ESSENTIALS

- 4 **Spotlight:** Cover Artist—Sarah Wilkinson, Albemarle Garden Club
- 5 **President's Message:** Natural Virginia
- 7 **Editor's Letter:** Welcome Spring!
- 8 **Fresh Produce & News You Can Use:** Boxwood Blight, *Dazzle!* at the 2024 Lily Show, RVA Achieves Bee City USA Designation, Cultivating Conversations, and more.

FEATURES

- 14 **Nelson Byrd Woltz and GCV's Historic Partnership:** Restoration Committee announces firm led by Thomas Woltz is the GCV's new landscape architect.
- 17 **Bessie Boccock Carter Conservation Award:** 2024 project finalists announced.
- 20 **HGW's Archive Project:** Bre Vassar from Roanoke Valley Garden Club spearheads important Historic Garden Week initiative.
- 24 **The Green:** Science Museum of Virginia's horticulturist Tyler Holtzman explains the evolution of this important property.

SNIPS

- 28 **Club News:** Four clubs in four GCV districts spotlight their programs.

END NOTES

- 33 **GCV Calendar:** Important dates to remember

NEW PARTNERSHIP Read about the GCV's partnership with NBW starting on page 14



**CAN YOU GUESS?**

If you can correctly guess which article this photo corresponds to in our pages AND you can identify what it is, email [Journal@GCVirginia.org](mailto:Journal@GCVirginia.org) with your answer and "GUESS" in the subject line for a chance to win a pack of GCV notecards that feature restoration sites across the state. Email us by May 15 to qualify.

ON THE COVER: ARTIST SPOTLIGHT  
SARAH WILKINSON

Albemarle Garden Club

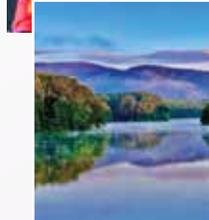
IN HER OWN WORDS:

I am originally from New York but moved to Charlottesville just before 9/11. I have lived here longer than anywhere else, as I went to Pomfret, a boarding school in Connecticut, at age 14. I met my husband, Matt, here in Charlottesville, and we have two teenage boys, Ward and Finn, and two dogs—Palmer, a yellow lab, and Coco, a mini dachshund.

For photos I always use my iPhone since it is with me almost all of the time. I love to take pics of my family (when they allow it), the dogs (too many to count) and of course, flowers, trees, and landscapes. With all of the walking we did during Covid, I had the opportunity to take so many photos.

My love of photography started as a young child, when my Dad gave me his Canon AE-1, and I took it everywhere, including school. Eventually I became the editor of our yearbook, the Pomfret Griffin. Many hours were spent in the darkroom developing the photos.

I have been a member of Albemarle Garden Club since 2020, and I feel quite fortunate because we have the nicest group of members. Everyone is very encouraging, and the club offers many great opportunities in and around our community. Our photography committee chairmen are quite knowledgeable, provide learning sessions regularly, and try to get as many of us as possible to enter shows. This February several of us entered our work in an art show!



Purple Mountain Majesty, photograph by Sarah Wilkinson

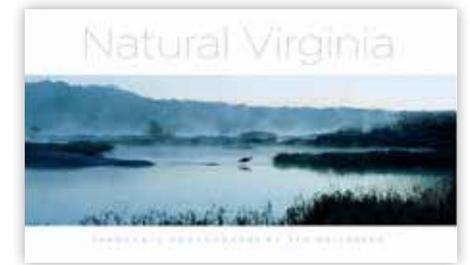
Sarah entered her photo, *Purple Mountain Majesty*, in the 2022 GCV Symposium Photography Show (Class 3: "The Winding Stream"). She says, "For this photo, taken at Beaver Creek Reservoir in Albemarle County, I left my house before sunrise several mornings in a row to try to get the perfect lighting on the mountains and their reflections on the water."

NATURAL VIRGINIA



In the preface of *Natural Virginia, Panoramic Photographs*, author and award-winning photographer Ben Greenberg writes, "I am a Virginian... I take pride in my home state. I treasure its natural beauty and the wide range of scenery from the Eastern Shore to the Blue Ridge Mountains, from the highlands of Southwest Virginia to the Great Falls on the Potomac River." He goes on to profess his "abiding appreciation of Virginia's natural world" and his commitment to "preserving that natural beauty forever."

As I leafed through the stunning images in Mr. Greenberg's book, including landscapes rarely seen as well as some of the commonwealth's most iconic, I was struck by the profound impact that the Garden Club of Virginia has had on the extraordinary spaces depicted in *Natural Virginia*. We can take pride in the past efforts of GCV members who advocated to establish state parks and maintain the pristine beauty of Goshen Pass and the wilderness of the Great Dismal Swamp. We continue to work hard to preserve the natural beauty of the landscapes along Virginia's highways and support conservation efforts to protect our rivers and waterways. The photographs speak to the relevance of our mission.



Today, as we begin our partnership with landscape architects Nelson Byrd Woltz, it is immensely exciting to envision the Garden Club of Virginia's next era. Under the visionary leadership of Thomas Woltz, we are committed to honoring our longstanding legacy for the restoration and preservation of remarkable historic landscapes of our commonwealth, while focusing new attention on the dynamic and relevant preservation of culturally significant landscapes.

As always, I extend my sincerest gratitude to you for making all that we do possible.

Debbie Lewis  
GCV President, 2022-2024

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GCV NOTECARDS

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA: PRESERVING VIRGINIA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE THROUGH HISTORIC GARDEN RESTORATION

Since 1929, the GCV has preserved and restored more than 50 public historic landscapes and gardens throughout Virginia. This important work is possible due to the efforts of GCV members who produce Historic Garden Week tours in their communities.

This first set in a series represents a selection of our projects through photos taken by GCV members and friends. The photos have been digitally converted to a lovely watercolor effect.

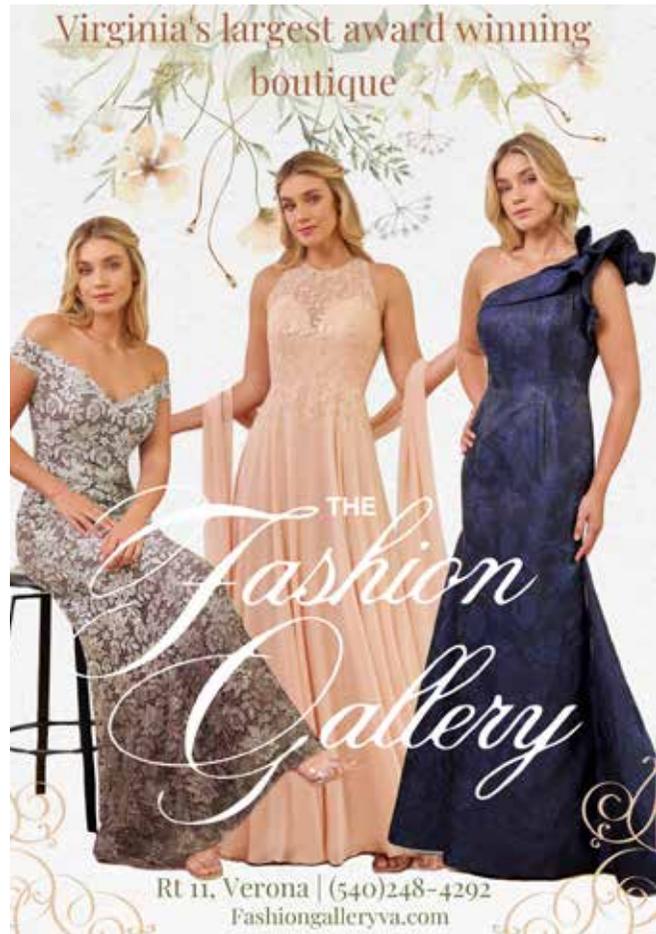
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PHOTO COURTESY OF MISSY JANES

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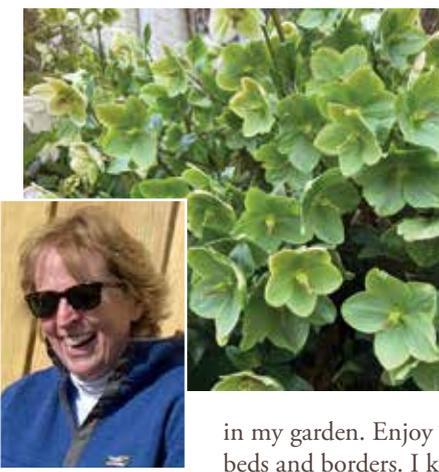
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WELCOME SPRING



When did spring pop in your garden? I saw my first hellebores in late January, and now they've positively gone bananas. Nearly four months later, they're thick and lush, the most dense I've ever seen them. They bring a smile to my face all day long. I was happy to see that my stand of Solomon's seal recently made an appearance, ever so gently creeping into new territory in my garden. Enjoy whatever is emerging in your spring beds and borders. I know I am.

I'm happy to say that, just like my hellebores, this spring issue of the *Journal* is exceptionally packed. It's full of newsy information designed specifically for the GCV membership. The big news, which follows the exciting announcement, is that the firm of Nelson Byrd Woltz, led by Thomas Woltz, has been selected to be the next Garden Club of Virginia's landscape architects. This is a game-changer for the GCV that aligns the organization with one of the world's most visionary landscape architecture firms. Read all about Debbie Lewis' fascinating conversation with Thomas Woltz on page 14.

But there's more. We bring you the Bessie Boccock Carter project finalists. Three very distinct projects in three very different parts of the state are up for this prestigious award that is designed to further the GCV's conservation mission. Read more about them on page 17. Clubs cast their votes in April, and the recipient will be announced at the GCV Annual Meeting in Charlottesville. Karen Ellsworth shares an important Historic Garden Week initiative, spearheaded by Roanoke Valley GC member Bre Vassar: The HGW Archives Project. A trackable, researchable vehicle will provide to access 91 years of Historic Garden Week information quickly. Do you know which properties in Roanoke were on the 1976 tour? Or which neighborhoods in Virginia Beach were featured on the 1992 tour? Who can recall the details of the 1936 tour? Now tour chairmen and committees will be able to access important information thanks to Bre's initiative and the work of HGW intern and Hollins University junior Elise Etienne. Read more about Elise and The Archives Project on page 20.

SNIPS is exceedingly full in this issue, with four clubs in four GCV districts sharing their programs and initiatives. Fresh Produce has expanded and includes super newsy information everyone in the GCV can use—from Tree Tips courtesy of our friends at Bartlett Tree Experts to an RVA Bee City Update, info on *Dazzle!*, the '24 Lily Show, loads of boxwood intel, and more.

Is your garden as packed as this issue of the *Journal*? I hope so!

Happy reading!



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

## Growing & Showing Daffodils

*“Daffodils...If You Can Grow Them, You Can Show Them!”—Vivian Herbert*



*Vivian Herbert with her charts and photos on growing and showing daffodils.*

*Photos courtesy of Vivian and Carrington Herbert*



This quote was inspired at last year’s Garden Club of Virginia’s Horticulture Field Day when Vivian Herbert, William & Mary Gardens and Grounds volunteer, gave a presentation on the Anderson-Kale Daffodil Tribute Garden. Held in June, there was nary a daffodil in sight.

Vivian’s descriptions, enhanced with exhibits of photographs and charts on boards, made the blooms come alive. And, this spring, after just three years of planting, this William & Mary garden came into bloom again with over 24,000 glorious stems. A sight not to be missed!

Vivian’s daffodil devotion took deep root after she purchased her first two bags of daffodil bulbs at an estate sale for 50 cents each more than 20 years ago. She so admired them in bloom, that she bought 400 more from a nursery at an end-of-season sale.

Vivian visited Brent and Becky’s Bulbs in Gloucester and reveled in the possibilities of having daffodils in bloom for four continuous months by planting early, mid- and late- blooming cultivars.

Smitten by the variations in the 13 daffodil divisions, she started buying show-quality bulbs.

For daffodil show newbies and long-time aficionados alike, enthusiasts such as Vivian inspire this love. Vivian says that for her, the allure of showing daffodils is in the competition, the camaraderie, and in the kindness that seasoned exhibitors display in helping newcomers.

Many GCV members have grown or exhibited daffodils for years. For some, the interest in “all things daffodils” has continued to grow as they have volunteered as judges, clerks, and runners at the long-standing GCV Daffodil Day show. One GCV member, Dr. Janet Hickman (Hillside Garden Club, Lynchburg), is the current president of the American Daffodil Society (ADS). Another GCV member, Karen Cogar Abramson, GCV Horticulture Committee member who hails from The Hunting Creek Garden Club in Alexandria, serves on the ADS board as International Liaison and is co-chairman of the ADS National Daffodil Convention which was held in Herndon,

April 10-13, 2024. Dianne Spence, from the Williamsburg Garden Club, serves on the ADS board as Awards Chair.

Vivian and her husband, Carrington, have planted more than 14,000 daffodils along the roads and banks of Wareham’s Pond and the James River in Kingsmill, Williamsburg. Many bloom simultaneously with the Yoshino cherry trees lining the winding roads. The Herberts have immensely enjoyed sharing their daffodil displays with local and international visitors.

At the last presentation for a group in Kingsmill, Vivian ended with “Can we make Kingsmill and Williamsburg a “Daffodil Destination?” The crowd cheered! It all starts by planting the first one.

Vivian Herbert’s current favorite daffodil is the Llanfair daffodil (1W-P), named for a village in Wales. 🌱

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



### AWARD NOMINATIONS DEADLINE

**JUNE 1, 2024**

**Conservation Educator Award**

**Dugdale Award for Meritorious Achievement in Conservation**

**The Helen and Tayloe Murphy Conservation Leadership in Government Award**

**And, looking ahead— DECEMBER 1, 2024**

**Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award**

**Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement**

*Nominations may be submitted by GCV members or member clubs. Visit the GCV website for nomination details and forms, past recipients and additional award information. GCVirginia.org*



### RVA Earns Bee City Designation

After much work by Anna Aquino (The Boxwood Garden Club) and Kate Rivara (Community Engagement Manager for Richmond’s Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities), Richmond City Council has approved Richmond becoming an official Bee City. Anna and I are the co-chairmen of the Bee City/RVA working

## Lilies in Bloom DAZZLE!

The 2024 Garden Club of Virginia Lily Show, Dazzle, will be held June 17-18 at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Richmond. This vibrant and welcoming parish is our beautiful setting for Horticulture, Artistic Design, and Photography exhibits.

We are delighted to include a lily workshop, “For the Love of Lilies” to be held on Monday, June 17, from 11 a.m. to noon. Our featured speaker is Mary Zocchi, a past president of the North American Lily Society and lily judge. Mary is a member of the Dolley Madison Garden Club in Orange, and the Alamo Heights-Terrell Hills Garden Club in San Antonio, Texas, where she currently lives. She follows in the footsteps of her mother, who was also a lily expert. Since moving to Texas, Mary has been on a quest to successfully grow lilies in the hot San Antonio heat.

Topics will include Mary’s personal fertilizer mix, planting lilies in pots, bloom timing for show exhibits, and more. The workshop is free and open to the public. The pop-up table, Lily Central, will be on the Horticulture Show floor this year with handouts, tips on planting, and cultivation. The handbook of lily culture, *Let’s Grow Lilies* will be for sale.

The lily show schedules for all divisions is posted on the GCV website; registration for classes opened April 1. Create, exhibit, or simply visit the show to see the beauty. Your interest and participation will make this show a Dazzling success! 🌱

**—Patsy Smith, Winchester-Clarke Garden Club, Lily Show Committee Chairman**



committee and, now that the city has committed to being a BCU, we can get started with concrete plans and having more people involved. The first order of business was to submit the required proposal to the Xerces Society asking

for our BCU designation. Anna and Kate submitted the proposal, which the Xerces Society approved. 🌱

**—Becky Anthony, Three Chopt Garden Club**

# Blue Ridge PRISM

December workshop confronted the serious problem of invasive plants.

*Invasive Japanese stilt grass can take over a forest floor in a flash.*



*ABOVE: A single wild Callery pear tree (aka Bradford pear) can spread quickly by seed and vegetative means, often forming dense thickets within several years and outcompeting native plants. Photo courtesy of Clemson.edu*

Just two weeks before Christmas, three members of the Garden Club of Virginia—Eva Clarke (James River GC), Heidi James, (Lynchburg GC), and Carla Passarello (Dolley Madison GC)—put aside holiday preparations to participate in a three-day workshop, organized by Blue Ridge PRISM. Blue Ridge PRISM, a non-profit, has the mission of addressing and eradicating invasive plants on public and private lands. PRISM has been working for several years to build a coalition of conservation organizations across the state of Virginia to educate, raise awareness, and work with legislators to tackle this pervasive and growing problem.

Invasive plants have been gaining national attention lately as conservationists recognize the devastating effect they have on the environment. Kudzu, bitter-sweet, and Japanese stilt grass infest natural areas and choke out the native plants that our native insects and wildlife need to survive. Bradford pear and autumn olive proliferate in the landscape creating sterile monocultures, lining our roadways, and infesting parklands. Even suburban HOAs have garnered headlines as residents pursue the desire to create native habitat in their own backyards.

More than 35 statewide conservation related organizations were represented at the Wool Factory in Charlottesville, Dec. 12-14. Workshop participants included Virginia state agencies like the Department of Wildlife Resources, the Department of Forestry, Virginia Tech, and conservation organizations such as The James River Association, Wetlands Watch, and Piedmont Environmental Council. Professional organizations attended as well. Nurseries including Saunders Brothers and Hill House Natives, landscape architects Earth Sangha, and land managers Virginia Forestry and Wildlife.

Over three days and following brainstorming breakout sessions, members bonded by sharing meals and even performed skits to build consensus. The result was tangible: groups “white-boarded” ways to promote sales, the use

of native plants, and address the need to increase available supply. Members devised programs to educate the public on the importance of native plants to wildlife, as well as the negative impacts even “ornamental” invasives like nandina and barberry can have. They recommended mapping priority areas and training an organized volunteer workforce to target them. The session wrapped up with a plan to work with nurseries and landscapers to discourage the invasive plant market, while incentivizing nurseries to ramp up supply and sales of native plants and promote their use in the landscape. Several pieces of legislation introduced at the Virginia Assembly resulted from this collaborative approach. 🌱

—Carla Passarello, Conservation Committee/Legislative Subcommittee, Dolley Madison Garden Club

## Cultivating Conversations: GCV Provides Informative Resource.

This new series, born out of member feedback, provides an additional opportunity for education and engagement, is exceedingly accessible (no registration fees or travel), and takes advantage of the talents, experience, and knowledge of GCV members. As we all well know, GCV members are some of the most talented gardeners, horticulturalists, conservationists, landscapers, arrangers, photographers, and advocates in the state. The Cultivating Conversations series allows our members a new means of sharing their knowledge and talents with fellow members near and far.

Launched this past fall, Cultivating Conversations takes place on one Monday of each month, at 5 p.m., via Zoom. Members from across

the state have gathered to learn from other members and share their own questions and experiences with each other. After each session, recordings of the presentations are made available at [GCVirginia.org](http://GCVirginia.org). In relatively short order, this collection of recordings has begun to serve as a valuable educational resource for members to access at any time.

We are excited to share that the remaining sessions in this program year will include a crash course on sustainable gardening practices on April 15, and virtual tours of some of the most spectacular gardens from 2024’s Historic Garden Week, on May 13.

Although free, registration is required. Look for the links to register and access past-session recordings in your monthly Membership News, and on

*“Cultivating Conversations has been a welcome antidote to long winter evenings. To settle down with wine or tea to watch and listen to knowledgeable speakers share their expertise in flower arranging, horticulture, and photography via Zoom is nourishment for the soul.”*

—Lois Spencer, The Garden Club of the Northern Neck

GCVirginia.org. Plan to join us for an upcoming session!

If you would like to be involved in the production of future Cultivating Conversations sessions, have ideas for future topics or other comments and suggestions, or have any questions about how to participate or get involved, please contact me at [jjk1988@gmail.com](mailto:jjk1988@gmail.com) or 757-375-5436. 🌱

—Jennifer Kelley, The Garden Club of Alexandria

*“Cultivating Conversations offers programs on every topic related to our garden club endeavors--artistic design, horticulture, conservation, photography--from mundane flower mechanics to marvelous tour homes on parade. There is always something to learn!”*

—Laura Francis, The Hunting Creek Garden Club



## CULTIVATING CONVERSATIONS



**Recordings currently available online include,** “Designing Your Garden for Seasonal Arranging,” “Behind the Curtain: Arranging Mechanics and Conditioning,” “Pollinator Support in the Home Garden,” “Unraveling the Mystery of Entering a Photography Show,” “How to Enter Horticulture in a Flower Show,” and “Keeping up with our Conservation Fellows.”

# Boxwood Blight

## Reducing the Threat for a Successful Historic Garden Week

After 91 years producing what has come to be known as “America’s Largest Open House,” it’s remarkable that the Garden Club of Virginia has managed to ensure a consistently positive experience for Historic Garden Week’s nearly 2 million visitors.

However, the event is not immune to challenges. One of the recent hurdles the GCV and HGW have faced is boxwood blight. While the initial alarm has subsided, it’s still imperative that a proactive approach be adopted, along with communicating a consistent message and educating both the public and homeowners. This strategy has resulted in the best possible outcomes and has significantly reduced the threat of spreading this devastating disease.

The most successful ways to combat boxwood blight are to encourage HGW visitors to be diligent with their own boxwood, and to request that tour visitors avoid contact with all boxwood bushes (for the protection of healthy boxwoods) while on tour properties.

**Boxwood Blight: What is it?** Boxwood blight is a fungal disease caused by the pathogen *Calonectria pseudonaviculata* that results in defoliation and decline of susceptible boxwood. Once introduced to a landscape, boxwood blight is very difficult and costly to control.

The blight initially presents as dark or light brown spots or lesions on leaves. The leaves typically turn brown or straw color, then fall off. The stems develop dark brown or black lesions. The disease may be fatal to young plants.

**How does it spread?** The major means of spread is by movement of contaminated plant material or the introduction of asymptomatic plants treated with fungicide which can mask the disease. Boxwood blight



spores are sticky and can also be spread on pruning tools, equipment, clothing, footwear, birds, animals—any item that has been in contact with infected plants. The spores remain viable for five years in fallen boxwood leaves and may be dispersed by wind and rain over short distances.

Warm and humid conditions facilitate its spread. 🌿



# FOCUS: Boxwood (*Buxus* spp.)



### History

While not a tree, boxwood is one of the most common landscape plants in the world and is widely used as a border plant and in formal gardens. Several species of boxwood are common in the horticulture industry, and all are susceptible, to various degrees, to insect and disease issues.

### Culture

- Does not tolerate saturated soils, and this will lead to root disease and/or stem dieback
- Buried root collar area is a common cause of decline
- Often sheared; however, hand pruning will lead to better health and thicker canopy
- May turn yellow to orange in winter when exposed to bright sun under cold conditions
- Boxwood spider mites, leafminer, and psyllid cause foliar damage.
- Volutella blight is not lethal but will kill individual branches.
- Boxwood decline is a disease that leads to slow mortality in English boxwoods.
- Nutrient deficiency is indicated by yellow, white, or orange discoloration of leaf margins.

### Concerns

- Boxwood blight is a major lethal disease. It causes characteristic leaf spots, followed by twig canker, defoliation, and plant death.

### Bartlett Management Practices

- Preventive fungicide applications for plants in areas with heavy boxwood blight pressure.

- Use caution when shearing or pruning potentially blight-infected plants because equipment can easily spread this disease.
- Inspect root collar areas and excavate as needed.
- Treat for pests such as spider mites, leafminer, and psyllid as needed.
- Improve soil conditions to mitigate boxwood decline.
- Fertilize annually and apply potassium phosphite to reduce stress during very hot and dry weather. 🌿

—The pros at Bartlett Tree Experts, Bartlett.com

## GROW GROW GROW!

*The opportunity to learn is something every garden lover appreciates. Botanical gardens and plant centers are great places to start. Expand your knowledge at these upcoming opportunities, and check out the websites listed for even more.*



*By layering bulbs and incorporating flowering plants, you'll be able to enjoy your container all summer.*

### • Brent & Becky's Bulbs, Gloucester

#### Living Flower Arrangement Container Workshop, May 11, 10:00 a.m.

Grab a friend and head to Brent & Becky's for a container workshop. You'll create a beautiful patio container you can enjoy all summer by layering bulbs. \$25 per person or 2 for \$40. Advance registration is required. Call (804) 693-3966 or sign up online to reserve your spot. [BrentandBeckysBulbs.com](http://BrentandBeckysBulbs.com)

### • Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, Winchester

#### MSV Heritage Plant Sale, May 17-18, 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

The MSV's annual plant sale returns with more plants than ever. From heirloom trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, pollinator and native plants, and vegetables, they've all been selected by the museum's horticultural staff for their ability to thrive in Valley gardens. [TheMSV.org](http://TheMSV.org)

### • Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond

#### Plant Diversity for Landscape Design, May 25, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Learn how your ornamental landscape can be a beautiful and edible landscape for insects, birds, and other small garden dwellers. Landscape designer and arborist Janine Lester will focus on plant diversity to promote a healthier, more sustainable ecosystem for all. \$45 members/\$54 nonmembers [LewisGinter.org](http://LewisGinter.org) 🌿

# Celebrated Landscape Architecture Firm, Led by Thomas Woltz, Selected as the GCV's Landscape Architects.

**A**fter an extensive two-year search under the leadership of former GCV president and Restoration Chairman, Jean Gilpin, the Restoration Committee is thrilled to announce the GCV's partnership with one of the most visible and celebrated landscape architecture firms in the country: Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects (NBW). This partnership represents an exciting beginning to the next 100 years of making a critical contribution to the historic landscapes of Virginia in a profound and meaningful way. GCV President Debbie Lewis recently sat down with Thomas Woltz, owner of NBW, to hear his perspective on this new venture.



Photo courtesy of Fran King.

**Debbie Lewis (DL): How/when did you learn about the restoration work of Garden Club of Virginia?**

**Thomas Woltz (TW):** I feel I've always been aware of the Restoration work of the GCV through a lifetime of visits to Monticello, Montpelier, Poplar Forest, and the Gardens at the University of Virginia. As an architect and landscape architect, living in the state of Virginia for nearly 40 years now, I have visited so many historic sites across the state, and more often than not, the guiding hand in their restoration has been the Garden Club of Virginia.

**DL: What do you find intriguing and exciting about the position of GCV Landscape Architect?**

**TW:** We are perhaps most excited about the range and scale of projects and the fascinating issues that the remarkable portfolio of GCV-stewarded properties provides. From the smallest question about a detail, a material, or a plant, all the way to the larger design questions of protecting historic landscapes for future generations, the work with the GCV draws on the full range of our tools as Landscape Architects, and in particular, on our design ethos and process at Nelson Byrd Woltz. Applying a high level of design rigor to the smallest and largest of conservation questions, we creatively support the long-term stewardship of sites and the fragile stories embedded in the site that are often vulnerable to development, neglect, and invisibility.

**DL: Could you describe your approach of "dynamic preservation" and how do you envision this relating to our work going forward?**

**TW:** Dynamic preservation is a phrase I coined a few years ago having worked on a number of historic sites that required sensitive adaptation to accommodate visitors in the 21st-century and to climate extremes of today. To thrive, these landscapes must dynamically evolve in ways that are respectful of their historic context and positive for the environmental sustainability of the site, all while uplifting lost and forgotten histories that may have become invisible overtime. For many, the idea of preservation is focused on the past, freezing a



Photo courtesy of Adam Ewing.

“We are excited in partnering with this vibrant group of folks to expand its stewardship of the stories held in the lands of the state. Virginia’s long and fascinating history, including that of Indigenous peoples, can find new voice in the landscape. The GCV operating at the scale and breadth of the entire state, has the opportunity to protect and steward these stories for future generations.”



Photos courtesy of Nelson Byrd Woltz.

site in time. For our team and NBW and our clients, dynamic preservation is holding the past in the light, to more brightly see and build the future.

**DL: As GCV and NBW grow within our new partnership, what future opportunities do you see?**

**TW:** I hope that NBW will be useful in the evaluation and selection of future sites for conservation. We hope to be a trusted sounding board as the organization reflects on applying its mission across the entire state. There are so many fascinating sites that are vulnerable and merit preservation, however, these decisions have to be made within the realities of construction, budgets, and likelihood of success and long-term stewardship in mind. Another compelling factor in selecting projects is working to tell a more complete history of Virginia landscapes. What might be missing in the portfolio and what are areas of the state currently underserved by preservation? These are exciting questions to address.

**DL: Could you speak to the importance of the impact the GCV has had on the cultural landscape of Virginia? We have created a lasting legacy over the past 100 years. How do we ensure that this legacy goes forward in a meaningful and relevant way?**

**TW:** I believe that the GCV can continue to add impactful projects to its portfolio. We are excited in partnering with this vibrant group of folks to expand its stewardship of the stories held in the lands of the state. Virginia’s long and fascinating history, including that of Indigenous peoples, can find new voice in the



Photos courtesy of Nelson Byrd Woltz



ABOVE: Thomas Woltz and Debbie Lewis; Photo by Fran King

TOP: Thoams Woltz in his house in Charlottesville; Photos courtesy of New York Social Diary



To see more of Thomas Woltz and NBWLA's work, scan the QR code.

landscape. The GCV operating at the scale and breadth of the entire state, has the opportunity to protect and steward these stories for future generations.

**DL:** Part of NBW's work will be to mentor landscape architect graduate students in our GCV Landscape Architecture Research Fellowship program. Would you speak to the importance of this program in terms of documenting important historic landscapes in Virginia as well as shaping the next generation of landscape architects?

**TW:** Unfortunately, the profession of landscape architecture remains almost invisible to many people. Most people associate the name of the profession with domestic gardens, backyards, and maybe swimming pools. Rarely do they understand landscape architecture is the profession that at once can steward biodiversity, cultural history, direct site construction and engineering, and envision the long-term maintenance to protect and preserve landscapes and therefore our shared culture and history. The opportunity to meet and collaborate with young people entering the profession is one of the most impactful parts of this collaboration with GCV. We are excited to mentor and support future practitioners in this extraordinary profession, which will bring greater public visibility to the impactful tools that are held within landscape architecture.

As we embark on our partnership with Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects, we are filled with anticipation and enthusiasm for the possibilities that lie ahead, joining forces in the dynamic preservation of Virginia's natural treasures.

We are most grateful to you, our GCV members, for your role in making it possible to continue serving as dedicated stewards of the unique and beautiful scenic landscapes and historic sites across our commonwealth, leaving a cultural legacy for future generations. 🌿

# The Bessie Boccock Carter Conservation Award Finalists

Three projects representing three distinct parts of the state were finalists for this prestigious GCV award. Once club votes are tabulated, the winner will be announced at the GCV Annual Meeting in Charlottesville in May.



## 1 The Elizabeth River Garden Club Eco-Landscape the Wilderness at Hoffer Creek Wildlife Preserve Portsmouth, Virginia

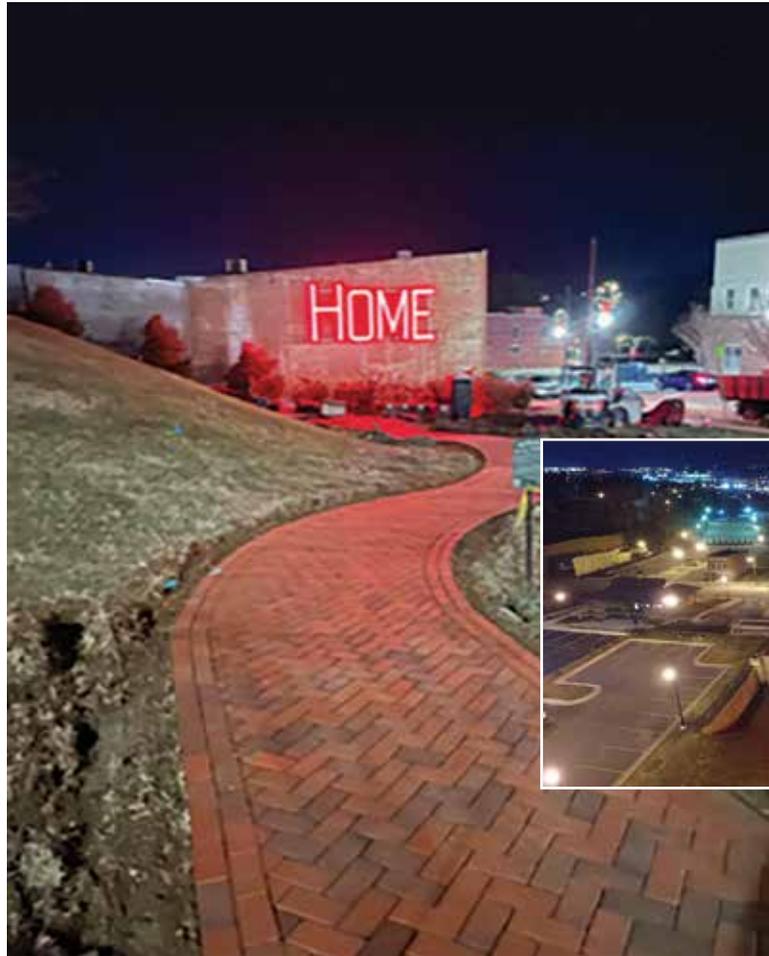
The Elizabeth River Garden Club (ERGC) has partnered with Hoffer Creek Wildlife Foundation (HCWF) for 25 years to conserve a unique 142-acre urban wildlife preserve in the city of Portsmouth. Myriad native wildlife is supported by this natural oasis. Outdoor enthusiasts, birders, nature photographers, students, researchers, and even those leery of wild spaces have free access to walking trails and scenic views six days per week, year-round.

In recent years, ERGC funded a pollinator garden of native shrubs and perennials at the gates to the preserve. The garden beautifies the entrance and provides food for pollinators. Butterflies flutter amongst the flowers, bees buzz about, and birds feast on seeds. However, the entrance to the trail system—an old road—regularly floods, and its openness undermines the surrounding natural habitat.

The Bessie Boccock Carter Conservation Award will fund the

planting of native trees and shrubs to absorb rainwater, naturalize the area, and enhance wildlife habitat. Benches and plant identification signs will provide an immersive and educational experience for all visitors, especially those with disabilities, or unable to navigate the trails. This eco-landscape garden will create a sanctuary accessible to the public in the heart of the metropolis of Hampton Roads. 🌿

# 2 Gabriella Garden Club Preserving Downtown Danville's Urban Oasis: the HOME Pocket Park Transformation Danville, Virginia



Funding from this award would be used to stop erosion at the back of the park, installing a combination of retaining walls and planter beds to allow for soil conservation as well as an irrigation rain sensor to mitigate water waste.

Gabriella Garden Club is committed to transforming Home Pocket Park, an otherwise empty space into a natural respite making all its visitors feel at HOME. 🌿

HOME Pocket Park is in a rapidly growing area of Danville's downtown district. The site previously housed an abandoned motel and when torn down was considered for the location of a parking garage. The space currently displays the iconic "HOME" sign, once part of a larger sign from the former Dan River Fabrics building. The land, however, void of anything except a few shrubs, was under-utilized, lacking appeal and functionality.

Gabriella Garden Club embarked on an ambitious project for GCV's Centennial Anniversary—forming partnerships with community organizations and launching a funding campaign to transform HOME Pocket Park into an extraordinary community resource and to protect this last downtown green space from future development. Once completed, the park will include a meandering brick paver walkway, bench seating, and over 250 newly planted shrubs, flowers, and trees.

## ABOUT THE BESSIE BOCOCK CARTER CONSERVATION AWARD

Established at the Annual Meeting, May 2009 to fund implementation of a conservation project that will serve as a catalyst for community action, the Bessie Boccock Carter Conservation Award recognizes clubs that embrace projects relating to natural resource conservation or environmental protection within the commonwealth. This monetary award is voted on by GCV member clubs and announced at the GCV Annual Meeting.



Camp Kum-Ba-Yah Nature Center (KBY) began as a summer day camp in 1950, which generations of children from all city neighborhoods have attended over the last 70+ years. In 2021, the 42-acre property was placed in a conservation easement, and the camp became the only nature center in the city expanding its mission to provide year-round natural space and environmental education for the entire community.

The 1.2-mile Cosby Trail is newly opened to the public and circumnavigates the property with accessibility to local neighborhoods from three entrances. The trail lacks a comprehensive marking system and identification of flora and fauna that would be of interest to hikers of this urban forest. Way-markers will encourage community visitors and school groups (including an adjacent 500-student elementary school) unfamiliar with hiking in the woods and invite currently hesitant residents to use the trail.

## Access to Nature and Outdoor Learning on the Cosby Trail

Hillside Garden Club  
Lynchburg, Virginia

# 3

The Bessie Boccock Carter Conservation Award will fund interpretative signs identifying trees, plants, and habitat to promote familiarity and appreciation for wooded, natural areas, and conservation in a city with limited and dwindling outdoor space. KBY is the location of Lynchburg's Historic Garden Week Tour "marketplace" and children's activities so the Way-marker project will be featured to HGW visitors. 🌿

# GCV HOLLINS INTERN HELPED DEVELOP A HGW SEARCHABLE DATABASE



*“It is estimated that at least 2,000 properties have been part of Historic Garden Week since its inception in 1929.”*

HGW website (VAGardenWeek.org) that date to 2011. “Miraculously, I was searching the internet for specific Historic Garden Week information and ran across an online database at the Roanoke library that included a list of all the tour properties from 1929 to 2011,” Bre remembers. “A librarian there had compiled it years ago. It stopped with the 2011 tour, where my list started, so it was an amazing surprise to find!”

One of the first and most important steps for tour chairmen, or the clubs’ procurement committees, is to identify potential properties that are varied, beautiful, and significant historically and horticulturally. Most clubs work at least one year in advance on this aspect of planning a tour. Knowing which homes and gardens have already participated in HGW, and when, makes this initial research much easier.

One way to find out is by culling through old HGW *Guidebooks* by hand, which is time-consuming and inefficient and often necessitates a trip to the Kent-Valentine House, where the most complete collection resides. Some chairmen have created a list of all the properties that have been featured in their part of Virginia but not all their successors have maintained the lists.

The primary goal of the Archive Project is to have an easily searchable resource online to help members plan future tours. It is estimated that at least 2,000 properties have been part of Historic Garden Week since its inception in 1929. Preserving this

legacy for future Garden Club of Virginia members and the public was also an objective. In addition, the collection of *Guidebooks* located at the Kent-Valentine House and at other libraries throughout the state, most significantly, the Library of Virginia, were not organized, complete or digitally inventoried. Phase I of the Archive Project aimed to fix this issue.

Bre worked with GCV staff to create an archive that included a comprehensive, simple, and searchable database, and to scan past *Guidebooks* to create a digital library that could be accessed easily by all GCV members. “In the past, unwieldy and detailed databases were considered, but determined to be too expensive and time-consuming to create,” Bre pointed out. “We realized the simplest, searchable database could be made using Excel. By entering the most basic information, it would serve as an index to cross-reference with an inventory of online *Guidebooks* to find specific information.”

Bre quickly realized we would need dedicated and focused help to get this project off the ground, and that finding an intern would be ideal. An alumna of Hollins University, she reached out to her alma mater, which is also a GCV restoration site, for assistance. Hollins offers its students an opportunity to work full-time in January for college credit. Elise Etienne, a junior, joined the staff at the Kent-Valentine House for this assignment.

“We were so fortunate to find Elise,” Bre noted. She is interested in conservation and is very organized and smart. Elise jump-started the project by compiling existing data and checking with clubs to locate lists they had already created,” Bre explained. Responses were favorable and quick—several clubs had done similar research to help with their own Historic Garden Week efforts



and had lists; others were excited to start gathering them. So far, about a third of HGW tours have submitted information, which has been entered into a master database Elise created.

Additionally, Phase II of the overall project includes scanning and organizing digital copies of the 2000-2010 *Guidebooks*. *Guidebooks* from 2011 to the present are already available on the HGW website. During her internship, Elise organized past editions of *Guidebooks* housed at the Kent-Valentine House and helped determine necessary steps to safely preserve the physical copies. Working side-by-side with GCV staff,

Elise coordinated with Julie Grover, KVH Committee Chairman, who has been working with her committee to organize materials in the basement of GCV’s headquarters.

“I was impressed with the thoughtful planning and mentoring that the HGW team undertook to create a worthwhile and productive internship experience for Elise,” said Andrea Butler, GCV executive director. “She created a summary presentation and delivered it to a small audience on her final day with us. This is real-world experience.”

Elise’s internship ended in January, but the Archive Project continues to be refined. “Consider this a request for help. We’d love to have club historians work on their lists and submit them to us so they can be merged with the master database,” says Bre. Does she offer any tips? Use simple spreadsheet file formats, like Excel or Google Forms, rather than PDF or Word documents to help make transferring data more efficient. “Our goal is to have the database ready to share and use by members, possibly as early as this summer.”

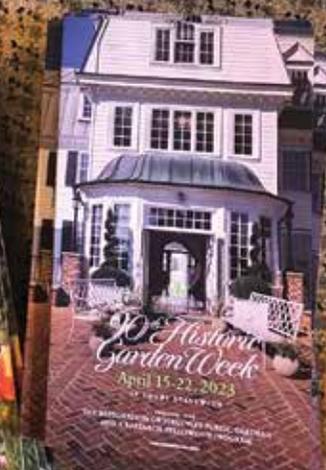
— Karen Cauthen Ellsworth, HGW Director and Editor of the *Guidebook*

COMPLETE THE HGW COLLECTION!



The GCV’s collection of Historic Garden Week *Guidebooks* is missing **1931, 1932** (these are probably pamphlets not books) as well as **1952**. If you or your club have these materials and are willing to donate them to the GCV, please contact **Karen Ellsworth** at 804-644-7776 or [Karen@VAGardenWeek.org](mailto:Karen@VAGardenWeek.org)

If your club would like to contribute to this project or have any questions about it, please contact **Bre Vassar** at [info@VAGardenWeek.org](mailto:info@VAGardenWeek.org).





# Introducing Apparel!



## GCV VISOR

Take GCV with you wherever you go! These classic visors are great for packing in your tennis and beach bags. One size. | \$25 each +\$3 shipping



## GCV BALLCAP

Featuring custom embroidery, these sporty and practical ballcaps are perfect for sun, rain, and just for fun! One size. | \$25 each +\$3 shipping



## GCV VEST

Show your GCV spirit while you run errands, gather for Historic Garden Week, and prepare your blooms for Daffodil Day! These versatile, lightweight vests are available in XS, S, M, L, XL and XXL. If you are between sizes, we recommend sizing up. Machine wash and dry; 100% polyester. | \$80 each + \$3 shipping

Now Available at [shop.gcvirginia.org](http://shop.gcvirginia.org)

Also available at the Kent-Valentine House and select GCV events.

## Q & A WITH ELISE ETIENNE, GCV INTERN FROM HOLLINS UNIVERSITY

Elise Etienne and Program and Capital Trees Outreach Manager Lisa Trapp



### 1. What's the greatest lesson you've learned during your time with GCV?

It isn't easy to narrow my entire experience to one lesson. However, what I appreciated most is how passionate everyone is at the Garden Club of Virginia. I've never worked at a place where people are so motivated by their work. Many of the staff were eager to share their projects and help me with mine. I am excited by the mission of the event, to preserve and restore historic public gardens, too. The non-profit aspect of the GCV attracts people who want to make the community a better place, and I found that inspiring.

### 2. Tell us a little about yourself and what interested you about this opportunity with the Garden Club of Virginia and Historic Garden Week.

I am a third-year Hollins University student, currently studying Psychology and Environmental Science. I was drawn to this opportunity because of GCV's focus on historic and garden conservation. I hope to work in a similar environment in the future.

### 3. Tell us about any new skills, techniques, and knowledge gained during your internship.



Left to right: Dale Neighbors, Elise Etienne and Audrey McElbinney at the Library of Virginia; Elise and Audrey; Capital Trees Executive Director Shelly Barrick Parsons, Outreach Manager Lisa Trapp and Elise Etienne.

I learned a lot of history. The Garden Club of Virginia, through Historic Garden Week, has records, books, pamphlets, and maps that date back to 1929. Using *Follow the Green Arrow I*, I learned how the GCV, and the *Guidebooks* evolved over the decades. I particularly enjoyed reading about the aid efforts and rehabilitation projects during World War II. During my internship, I researched a lot about the digitizing process, and learned many terms like OCR scanning and DPI (dots per inch). I created my first business documents, such as a Request for Proposal and price estimate sheets.

### 4. Did your internship match your expectations?

This internship exceeded my expectations. I thought I was going to be entering raw data for a month. I did not realize how hands-on, creative, historically relevant, and research-intensive this internship would become. It had a mix of many topics, tasks, and skills I enjoyed working on.

### 5. What do you want to do when you graduate, and how will this internship help you on your journey?

I thought I would focus on fieldwork in the Environmental sector after I graduate. However,

after working with the Garden Club of Virginia and meeting other non-profits like Capital Trees (making introductions and connections was part of the internship experience) while I was in Richmond, I hope to work in a non-profit that focuses on preserving both history and the environment. I would like to have a job that allows me to do both hands-on and logistical work. The combination of data entry, business proposal writing, and archiving experience I learned at GCV has helped me prepare for the multifaceted job I hope to acquire in the future.

### 6. What was your favorite experience during your internship?

I really enjoyed the archiving process. It was a combination of data entry, working with partner organizations, inventory management, and historical research. I liked being able to combine tasks to exchange resources with other libraries. It was satisfying and exciting to be able to bring the *Guidebooks* missing from their own collection to the Library of Virginia on the last day of my internship. The experience was challenging and rewarding in a way I have not felt before. 🌿



# Going Green Never Looked So Good

By Tyler Holtzman,  
Science Museum of Virginia Horticulturist

At the Science Museum of Virginia, green is our color! Since the Science Museum opened Phase 1 of The Green in May 2023, it has attracted visitors of all kinds: those with two legs, those with four legs, and those with wings, feathers, and fur. While they have each come for different reasons, The Green satisfies a wide variety of needs with its beauty, habitat, educational opportunities, and health resources.



After extensive internal upgrades, in 2015 Science Museum leaders began planning campus enhancements to make outside spaces just as enjoyable, educational, and beneficial to the community.

After building a deck to condense on-site parking, the Science Museum removed nearly two acres of asphalt. At the time, it was the largest de-paving project in Richmond. With the parking lot cleared, the Science Museum had a blank slate to install native plants that would develop a robust ecosystem.

The Green's design had to satisfy several goals:

- Cultivate knowledge about—and a love of—conservation gardening.
- Develop a free community gathering space that promotes connection and provides opportunities to deepen engagement with nature and each other.
- Restore the grounds with an aesthetic that complements the historic building designed by renowned architect John Russell Pope.
- Showcase the beauty and environmental benefits of native plants.
- Create a natural filter to remove pollutants and slow the influx of stormwater into urban sewer systems.
- Offer a high-visibility model of natural solutions that address the impacts of the urban heat island effect in a major transportation coordinator.

In the nearly one year since Phase 1 of The Green opened, the impact of this transformation is evident.

## Beautification

Since 2022, the Science Museum has planted close to 200 trees representing nearly 30 different species, including fringe trees, flowering dogwoods, American beech trees, and Eastern redbuds. Multiple gardens on campus contain 14,000 plants representing 19 species of flowers, grasses, and shrubs, each playing an important part in the life cycle

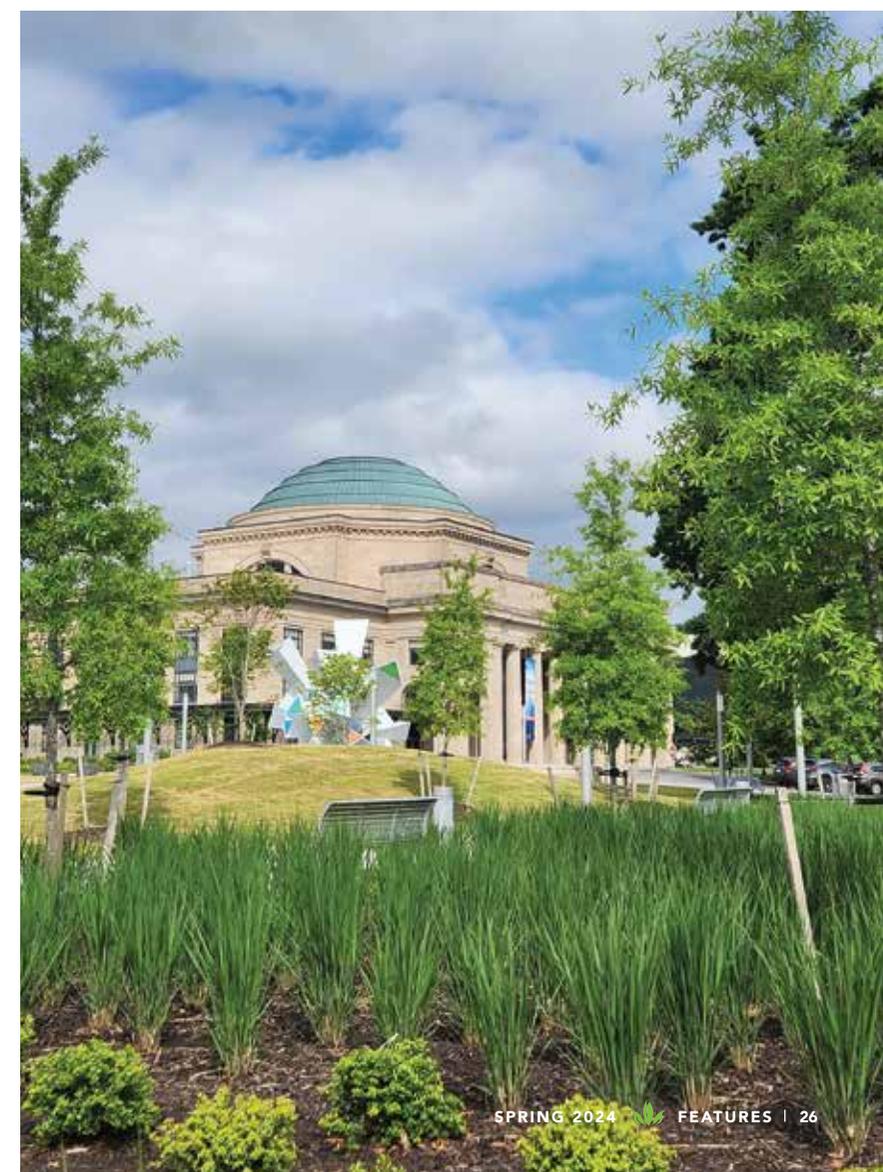


of birds, insects, and other beneficial pollinators.

All of the vegetation planted on the Science Museum's campus is native to Virginia. From coneflowers to serviceberry, the native plants not only clean and cool water and air, but they also promote biodiversity and healthy ecosystems in our urban environment.

Integral to caring for The Green is use of conservation landscape maintenance methods, including leaving leaves in areas whenever possible to provide habitat for insects and add organic matter to the soil. After the blooming season, the horticulture team cuts back perennials at varying lengths to provide winter seeds for birds and homes for stem-nesting insects.

Walking paths, sleek lighting, unique interpretation, a striking allee featuring willow oaks, benches



and varied topography all contribute to a space that is welcoming to all, one that invites visitors to explore, linger, and engage. If the colorful blooms, swaying leaves, and striking beauty aren't inspiring enough, signage offers guests interesting science stories that change their perspectives of the natural world.

In addition, The Green houses *Cosmic Perception*, a custom art piece designed by Shane Albritton and Norman Lee of RE:site. With its 50 spires and color-changing dichroic film, *Cosmic Perception* celebrates discovery and exploration. The Green's combination of natural and fabricated materials is not only elegant, but also fosters an appreciation for conservation gardening.



## Environmental

Greening the campus builds on the Science Museum's community-centered climate resilience work. Removing dark, impervious surfaces takes away a material that traps energy from the sun. Reducing the number of heat-trapping surfaces in an urban environment helps decrease air temperature and lower energy use.

The powerful combination of both removing parking lots and adding greenspace turns The Green from a gray funnel into a green filter. Instead of rainwater quickly running off impervious surfaces and overflowing sewer systems, it gets absorbed into vegetation. This slows the amount of water hitting

the sewer system at one time and reduces the likelihood of flooding. In addition, vegetation in The Green prevents erosion by holding soil in place and filters rain, thus reducing water pollution, protecting drinking water, and decreasing rates of waterborne illness.

## Health

The canopy provided by trees in greenspaces absorbs and diffuses the sun's radiation. This helps protect people during heat waves by decreasing the chance of heat-related illness. In addition to providing shade, trees filter the air we breathe. This natural process reduces air pollution and improves air quality.

The Green provides a free and open-to-all tool to improve mental and physical health. Access to greenspace creates opportunities for increased physical activity, which can reduce symptoms associated with chronic diseases, such as obesity and cardiovascular conditions. Being more active in nature also helps reduce anxiety symptoms and fosters social and community connectivity.

## Future Plans

Completing Phase 1 of The Green moved the Science Museum another step closer to accomplishing our goal of having more than half of the 37-acre campus as greenspace. But it was a beginning, not an ending.

Just months after opening The Green, the Science Museum embarked on Phase 2. The space directly in front of the building is nearing completion, enhanced in the same ways as Phase 1 with asphalt removed and native plants added. We paid homage to the historic space by selecting landscape materials and understory trees that preserve the view of the impressive architecture and showcase the beloved gem and cultural hub.

The Phase 2 design maintains the original crescent-shaped front drive with added features to increase pedestrian safety. Black tupelo trees line the drive, and the allée from Phase 1 continues into Phase 2, mimicking the tree-lined streets from the early 20th century. John Russell Pope, the architect of the Science Museum, designed the building in 1917. Two large

specimen American elms flank the columns of the building, creating a natural framework for the neoclassical building.

In addition, work is underway on another custom art installation, a sundial featuring a human-scale bird that will tell passersby the time while inspiring them to learn more about the many feathered friends who depend on greenspaces for habitat.

And we're not stopping there. The Green has been so well received by the community that the Science Museum is expanding its campus greening plan. In the coming years, the Science Museum will extend greening efforts down DMV Drive back to Leigh Street. Building on lessons learned from Phase 1 and 2, the Science Museum is committed to providing a space that meets the original goals and exceeds community expectations.

A once-barren asphalt parking lot is now a space filled with an array of attractive trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowers that create a lush, natural landscape. The diversity of plantings continuously transforms in appearance throughout the seasons with the foliage changing color and flowers blooming from spring until fall.

The Science Museum's campus enhancements set the benchmark for future formal and informal development in Virginia. This work shows businesses, developers, residents, community groups across the state that greening efforts are possible and beneficial. The Green exhibits that both pleasing aesthetics and ecological function can be married into one impactful greenspace. The community now has a beautiful spot of natural tranquility along bustling Broad Street that will only continue to blossom with time. 🌿



## MORE INFORMATION



The Green is, and will always be, free and open not just to Science Museum guests, but to all of the public. To learn more or to support The Green while honoring a friend, a colleague or a loved one by dedicating a plant, bench or tree, visit: [support.smv.org/TheGreen](https://support.smv.org/TheGreen)





GCV DISTRICT 1

## The James River Garden Club & Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton

RICHMOND

On a bright, chilly morning in mid-November, members of the James River GC and the Tuckahoe GC of Westhampton gathered for a special joint meeting to learn about... peonies?!? Yes, those glorious blooms that feel like distant memories in winter. Held at the Virginia War Memorial in honor of Veteran's Day, the meeting featured a light lunch, club exhibits in floral design, horticulture, and photography, and a fascinating presentation by Kathleen Gagan, peony expert and owner of Peony's Envy in Bernardsville, New Jersey. Gagan captivated the audience with her passion and knowledge of all



**FAR LEFT:** The Peony Queen herself in her Bernardsville, NJ Garden.

**MIDDLE:** Peonies fill a classic ginger jar.

**BELOW:** 'Bowl of Beauty' herbaceous peony.

**BOTTOM:** Pink tree peony, photo by Katherine Slade.

All other photos courtesy of Kathleen Gagan, Peony's Envy.



things peony, coupled with stunning images of her nursery, display gardens, and cut flower fields. Attendees learned volumes about the beloved spring showstoppers—peony history, type, color and bloom progression, best planting practices, garden design,



cutting and arranging, and so much more. And somehow Gagan infused this detail and instruction with a hearty dose of humor and wit, especially when sharing peony dos and don'ts!

Tuckahoe GC President Kelly Armstrong remarked, "When we asked Kathleen about why she has devoted her life to peonies, she shrugged off her success and quipped that no other crop she tried was as bountiful or deer proof. But once you spend time talking with Kathleen, you will quickly recognize that the true bounty is her vast experience and expertise with the genus *Paeonia*." Lucky club members departed with their own bounty—bare root peony plants purchased from the Peony Queen herself.

—Laura Whisnand



GCV DISTRICT 2

## The Augusta Garden Club

STAUNTON

For decades, the Augusta Garden Club (AGC) has enjoyed brightening the lives of ailing AGC members, family, and friends at Christmas time. Each year, members commit to getting or making—and delivering—wintery floral cheer to those who need it most. As Covid brought new challenges to our community, we expanded the deliveries to include our treasured health care workers and first responders.

In 2021, the AGC Flower Show Committee, co-chaired by Cordelia Gary and Grace Rice, offered a wreathmaking workshop for members in advance of the club's annual Christmas deliveries. As part of the committee's ongoing efforts to nurture new members' comfort level with arranging, the Christmas workshop has become a happy annual gathering. The current committee co-chairs, Linda Holden and Marie Thomas, are longtime arranging mentors to our members, offering floral design workshops several times a year. This past Christmas, 2023, they oversaw the making and delivery of more than 40 arrangements and plants.

The workshops and deliveries are great opportunities to hone our arranging skills, visit with each other at Christmas, and bring joy to our members, families, friends, and workers vital to our community. An added benefit emerging from this work is the opportunity to immerse our children and grandchildren in the happiness that comes from giving, as pictured below. We look forward to continuing the tradition yearly!

—Sheila Byrd Carmichael



GCV DISTRICT 3

## The Garden Club of the Northern Neck

NORTHERN NECK

On Feb. 29, the Garden Club of the Northern Neck welcomed garden enthusiast and podcaster Leslie Harris to a community event at Good Luck Cellars in Kilmarnock. Leslie, a well-known garden designer, loves to "garden-splain" and make



horticulture fun and accessible for others. A member of both Albemarle Garden Club in Charlottesville and Green Fingers Garden Club in Greenwich, Connecticut, she presented her program, "Thoughtful Gardening: How to Combine Sustainability with Beauty in the Garden" to a crowd of over 150, which included members of The Garden Club of Gloucester and Mathews. "It was an inspiring presentation," says Lynne Manning, GCGM member. "And great fun meeting our fellow garden club members to the north!" GCNN member Mercer O'Hara agreed: "Leslie is a wonderful speaker. She reminded us in a non-confrontational way of the importance of planting for pollinators, shrinking our lawns, and all the other actions we can take to help make it a better world."

And also in February, Lisa Elliott from Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton in Richmond, "gave a fabulous program for



Vicki Levering, GCNN 1st VP, Leslie Harris, and Ann Thornton

Lisa Elliott combined a PowerPoint presentation with a demonstration—planting a large container with a mixture of perennials and bulbs.



—continued from previous page  
GCNN members at Historic Christ Church in Weems,” says Ann Thornton, GCNN president. Lisa, a master gardener, has worked for the past 15 years as a container garden designer and also does small landscape installations. She also previously worked at Sneeds Nursery and Greenhouse II, both in Richmond.

A nature lover and skilled gardener, Lisa specializes in designing custom planters for clients in the Richmond area as well as throughout the Northern Neck. “She shared a PowerPoint presentation of various outdoor planters she has created for a number of her clients,” says Ann, that included those for front doors, poolside, garden areas,

decks, and porches. Her presentation also included a demonstration using different plants, foliage, and mainly perennials for a large outdoor planter and shared her tips and tricks along the way. The finished product was auctioned. “Our members were mesmerized,” says Ann.  
—Vicki Levering

and Jim Garland, long time members of the community. Their gallery houses a diverse showing of art in multiple disciplines. The gallery supports local artists who have the opportunity to show their work amid that of nationally and internationally known artists. And we garden club members who love to arrange treasure the connection established with the gallery to “show” our art form to those who know flowers and foliage as the media of our stock and trade.

view what’s new at the gallery. On January 25 it was fresh flowers. This year paintings held the fascination. Moe Bates chose *Lily Pond Rave* by Kim Yourick. Amy Bertles interpreted the dark night of Molly Wright’s *Light Parade*. Jordan Richards found *Puzzling* by John Rofu tempting to solve. Glenn Stoever offered luscious pastel gerbera daisies to reflect Debby Brisker Burk’s *Flyaway*. Bridget Weaver interpreted Sonia Garda’s interpretation of Frederick Leighton’s *Flaming June*. The team of Kim Griffith, Barbara Jacob, and Micky Quinn tackled the bold colors of *Amazons Amazon* by Hunt Slonem. Laura Francis was smitten with a metal relief by Dorothy Gillespie, *Golden Memory*. No artistic design parameters. No size limits. No judging! The crowd enjoyed hearing from the arrangers what inspired them about their chosen artwork.

to the Nepenthe for a demonstration by Laura Francis on her process for interpreting art in flowers. Laura chose Hunting Creek Garden Club member Karen Cogar Abramson’s watercolor/dry brush “*Gourd*” for the demonstration. The bold colors and shapes and especially the reflection Karen achieved in this superb eye-popping piece spoke to Laura of color, texture, and contrast. In the flower arrangement smooth moss, bright berries and ruffled carnations stood in for the gourd and bright blue vase of the painting. Laura quoted florist Hattie Sloane of Austin-based Flora Fetish saying, “Floral design is an art form, and I approach it as such. To me, tinkering with the color composition of an arrangement is akin to mixing paints on a palette.”

This year’s results were debuted at Nepenthe’s traditional Thursday evening cocktail hour where the whole of Alexandria is invited to

The morning of the show’s opening nearly 40 members of 7 different area garden clubs came

Community outreach can manifest itself in very creative endeavors. Garden club members had a chance to practice arranging with great inspiration. Many others learned how one arranger goes about the task. And many from Alexandria saw works of art in a new way. —Laura Francis



All photos by Linda Lindfors, The Garden Club of the Northern Neck

LEFT: Maggie Belliel, Mary Carter Dabney, Susan Tempest, Betsy Stanley, Laurie Irby (all GCNN).

RIGHT: Lynne Manning (GCGM), Vicki Levering (GCNN 1st VP), Rene Wenleder (GCGM), Anne Thornton (GCNN President), Leslie Harris (featured speaker), Darlene Talbot (GCGM), Peggy Montgomery (GCGM)



## GCV DISTRICT 5

### The Hunting Creek Garden Club

ALEXANDRIA

For the second year, the Nepenthe Art Gallery, The Hunting Creek Garden Club and The Garden Club of Alexandria joined forces and talent to pair beautiful artwork with striking flower arrangements—the garden club members’ art form. The show is a mutual bonus to benefit all of our organizations.

The Nepenthe Gallery in Alexandria is owned by Carrie



## Fullfilling our Mission.

### THANK YOU MEMBER CLUBS!

In 1920, eight garden clubs formed a federation that stood for good roads, conservation of native trees and flowers, intelligent warfare against plant pests, and the abolition of billboards, which blighted scenic landscapes. These passionate and committed women became a potent influence in the state for the conservation of native beauty and the preservation of historic homes and gardens.

Today, the Garden Club of Virginia encompasses 48 member clubs representing 3,400 members who remain dedicated to conserving Virginia's natural resources, restoring and preserving historic landscapes, cultivating a love for gardening, and leading future generations to build on this heritage. Proceeds from Historic Garden Week are specifically earmarked for the historic preservation pillar of the GCV's mission. This signature event would not be possible without generous homeowners, sponsors and advertisers, and our loyal members who work tirelessly to produce the country's only statewide house and garden tour.

#### ALBEMARLE-CHARLOTTESVILLE

Albemarle Garden Club  
The Charlottesville Garden Club  
Rivanna Garden Club

#### OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA

The Garden Club of Alexandria  
The Hunting Creek Garden Club

#### ASHLAND-OLD CHURCH

The Ashland Garden Club  
Three Rivers Garden Club

#### CHASE CITY

The Brunswick Garden Club

#### DANVILLE-CHATHAM

Chatham Garden Club  
Gabriella Garden Club  
The Garden Club of Danville

#### EASTERN SHORE

The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

#### FAIRFAX COUNTY-MCLEAN

The Garden Club of Fairfax  
The Garden Club of Warren County

#### FREDERICKSBURG

The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club

#### GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS

The Garden Club of Gloucester-Mathews

#### GARDENS AT GOSHEN

The Garden Club of Gloucester-Mathews

#### HAMPTON-NEWPORT NEWS

The Hampton Roads Garden Club  
The Huntington Garden Club

#### HARRISONBURG

The Spotswood Garden Club

#### HISTORIC BERKELEY, SHIRLEY & WESTOVER

Historic Shirley, Berkeley & Westover

#### LEESBURG

Leesburg Garden Club

#### OAK SPRING

Fauquier-Loudoun Garden Club

#### LYNCHBURG

Hillside Garden Club  
The Lynchburg Garden Club

#### MARTINSVILLE

The Garden Study Club  
The Martinsville Garden Club

#### MIDDLE PENINSULA-ESSEX COUNTY

The Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula

#### NORFOLK

Harborfront Garden Club  
The Garden Club of Norfolk

#### NORTHERN NECK

The Garden Club of the Northern Neck

#### ORANGE COUNTY

Dolley Madison Garden Club  
The Warrenton Garden Club

#### PETERSBURG

The Petersburg Garden Club

#### RICHMOND: WINDSOR FARMS-COVENTRY & WINDSOR FARMS-NOTTINGHAM

Three Chopt Garden Club  
The Boxwood Garden Club  
The James River Garden Club  
The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton

#### RICHMOND: RIVER HILL

Historic Richmond and the 4 garden clubs of the GCV located in Richmond

#### ROANOKE

Mill Mountain Garden Club  
Roanoke Valley Garden Club

#### STAUNTON

The Augusta Garden Club  
The Blue Ridge Garden Club

#### SUFFOLK

The Franklin Garden Club  
The Nansemond River Garden Club  
The Elizabeth River Garden Club

#### VIRGINIA BEACH

The Princess Anne Garden Club  
The Virginia Beach Garden Club

#### WILLIAMSBURG

The Williamsburg Garden Club

#### WINCHESTER

The Garden Club of Warren County  
The Little Garden Club of Winchester  
Winchester-Clarke Garden Club



# SAVE THE DATES

## 2024

- May 2 | Flower Arranging Workshop at Pharsalia, Tyro
- May 13 | Cultivating Conversations, TBD
- May 21-23 | GCV Annual Meeting, Charlottesville
- June 1 | Deadline for nominations for Conservation Educator Award, Dugdale Award for Meritorious Achievement in Conservation and the Helen and Tayloe Murphy Conservation Leadership in Government Award
- June 4-5 | Horticulture Field Day, Leesburg
- June 10 | GCV Presidents Day
- June 12-13 | HGW Boot Camp, The Woman's Club, Richmond
- June 18 | Lilies in Bloom—Dazzle!, St. Stephen's Church, Richmond
- October 22-24 | Board of Governors, Norfolk

## SUBMIT YOUR ARTWORK

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](mailto:journal@gcvirginia.org).



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