

THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA



VOL LXV, NO. 2, JUNE 2020

Journal



The Garden Club of Virginia exists to celebrate the beauty of the land, to conserve the gifts of nature and to challenge future generations to build on this heritage.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year began with such promise and anticipation for the celebration of the Garden Club of Virginia's Centennial -- Daffodil Day, Historic Garden Week in Virginia, Founders Day, the GCV annual meeting and Lilies in Bloom. Then came the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our communities and on our health and safety, derailing planned GCV events. The June *Journal* is abbreviated in length, and this issue is online only.

Yet the GCV and its members have met this challenge with their usual resilience, determination and creativity. Daffodil Day was reimaged in a digital form. Historic Garden Week was celebrated on social media. The annual meeting was held online. Our Centennial exhibition will be open at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture July through October. And Lilies in Bloom is rescheduled to be hosted in Fredericksburg in 2021 and 2022. In addition, GCV committees have learned to "Zoom" and conduct our club business by teleconferencing.

In spite of disappointments, GCV members are engaged and excited to plan for the future of our organization. We are ever mindful of our mission "to celebrate the beauty of the land, to conserve the gifts of nature and to challenge future generations to build on this heritage." We lift each other up in prayers for good health and safety, and we look forward to being together again soon.

—Missy Buckingham (2020-2022)

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The Garden Club of Virginia *Journal*

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President of the Garden Club of Virginia
Jean E.R. Gilpin

Journal Editor

Julie Grover
401 Overlook Circle
Lexington, VA, 24450
540-463-6568
journal@gcvirginia.org

Journal Advertising Chairman

Lea Shuba
6103 Woodmont Road
Alexandria, VA, 22307
703-329-1677
journalads@gcvirginia.org

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ON THE COVER...

This utterly charming collage on oil paper would lighten just about anyone's heart. "Planting Bulbs I" is 30" by 23," and was shared with us by the artist Karen Blair of Albemarle Garden Club.

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OTHER REFERENCES...

Kent-Valentine House
Phone: (804) 643-4137 Fax: (804) 644-7778
director@gcvirginia.org

Historic Garden Week Office
Phone: (804) 644-7776 Fax: (804) 644-7778
historicgardenweek@gmail.com
vagardenweek.org

Garden Club of Virginia
12 East Franklin St.
Richmond, VA 23219

Missy Buckingham – Our 51st President

*by Liz Price
The Boxwood Garden Club*

A native Virginian, Missy Buckingham was born in Richmond and blossomed in the river city while enjoying summers in Bath County at camp and at her family's cottage in Virginia Beach. She graduated from Collegiate School in 1970 and went on to graduate from another Virginia institution, Mary Baldwin College in Staunton.

Postgraduate jobs as assistant director of development for Mary Baldwin and club membership and marketing director of a large golf course community honed her skills as an organizer, communicator and problem solver. Missy thrived as a volunteer and board member of numerous nonprofit organizations in Richmond while raising her family.

Missy joined the Boxwood Garden Club in 1988 and quickly established herself as a talented arranger and, most importantly, a tireless worker holding many positions in the club. She served as Historic Garden Week co-chairman and as club president from 1999-2001, and is the first to volunteer for additional work whenever needed.

In 2006, Missy was tapped as the Kent-Valentine House chairman and later as Garden Club of Virginia personnel chairman. Because good work is rewarded with more work, she was subsequently appointed to a number of GCV positions: director at large on the board of directors, Massie Medal chairman, parliamentarian and first vice president. Nourishing her creative side, Missy pursued her accreditation as a GCV artistic judge, achieving that status in 2012, while also opening her Richmond-based floral design business, FLEURS.

“What do you like most about being a part of GCV?” Without hesitation Missy says, “the people!” She emphasizes that the breadth and scope of talented women across the state is remarkable. She also proudly stresses the enormous contribution and impact that the GCV has made to our commonwealth: “From restoration to conservation to partnerships, Garden Club of Virginia has led the way in demonstrating the power of volunteerism.”

On the home front, Missy is supported by her husband of 42 years, Richard, their three grown children, Mary Gordon, Pierce and Claiborne and four young grandchildren. Missy is passionate about family, friends and flowers. Her vision and natural leadership qualities will continue the legacy of those strong women who have preceded her and help her lead the GCV in its mission of education, conservation and preservation.

The Garden Club of Virginia is fortunate to be in such capable and caring hands. 🌸





*A Landscape Saved:
The Garden Club of Virginia at 100*

Photo courtesy Warren Faught



*Restoring America's Most Significant Gardens:
Stratford Hall, Poplar Forest and
the Garden Club of Virginia*

Photo courtesy Kogen Popo

Exhibition
July 1 - November 1, 2020

Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime occasion to view artifacts provided by members and clubs telling the GCV story in celebration of our Centennial. This is an opportunity to view with pride the statewide impact of GCV activism in restoration, conservation, horticulture and education.

Banner Lecture
September 16, 2020, noon - 1 p.m.

Stratford Hall's Director of Landscapes and Security Matt Peterschmidt, Poplar Forest's Director of Archaeology and Landscapes Dr. Eric Proebsting and GCV Restoration Committee Chairman Betsy Worthington will discuss the legacy of the Garden Club of Virginia in the context of two current projects and their unexpected connection.

*Both events are free for VMHC members. Non-VMHC members pay an admission fee.
Please visit virginiahistory.org for more information.*



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Centennial

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Waterford Crystal Keepsake

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de Lacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation

by Heidi James, GCV Conservation Awards Committee Chairman
The Lynchburg Garden Club

The conservation awards committee of the Garden Club of Virginia is proud to present the de Lacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation to Anna Galusha Aquino of the Boxwood Garden Club and Meg Turner of the James River Garden Club.

Anna attained degrees from the University of Virginia in environmental sciences and from Virginia Tech in horticulture. She received a master of landscape architecture from Harvard's Graduate School of Design. Her interests lie in birds, bugs and creating great places in which people live and work, while inspiring her design business and her volunteer projects at schools and parks. Anna enjoyed seven years teaching at George Washington University's landscape design program in Richmond. She works with the James River Invasive Plant Task Force, helping to set policy, remove invasives and plant natives. With Boxwood, Anna designed and implemented its donation of a garden surrounding the playground at Peter Paul Development Center, a Richmond organization that provides after-school and seniors programming. This project won the 2019 GCV Common Wealth Award. Richmond's tree commissioner, also a Boxwood member, asked Anna to design the Monument Avenue West street tree median planting in 2001. Anna has been active with Richmond's Capital Trees and is currently chairman of its projects committee, helping to manage the public landscapes in sustainable and environmentally thoughtful ways.



Anna Galusha Aquino

Meg graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law and worked as an attorney before opening her landscape design firm. Over the past decade, Meg has been an effective leader in conservation efforts around the commonwealth. She has worked to create beneficial green spaces in urban areas, to eradicate invasive plants, to improve the health of the James River and to educate Virginians on the benefits of conservation. She has been a leader with Capital Trees and currently serves as its chairman. Her legal background has been an asset in securing key agreements with the city of Richmond and other entities that helped to make the program a reality. Meg is now developing the Capital Trees Low Line Green, an outdoor event space with environmental significance. It will feature bioretention gardens to treat the storm water runoff from Interstate Highway 95. Meg serves as a board member of the Virginia Urban Forest Council and is a volunteer with the James River Park System's Invasive Plant Task Force. 🌱



Meg Turner



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Common Wealth Award Nominations Announced

*by Karla MacKimmie, Common Wealth Award Committee Chairman
The Warrenton Garden Club*

The Common Wealth Award committee is happy to announce four finalists for the 2020 Common Wealth Award. This award, established by the Garden Club of Virginia in 1979, provides an annual grant/grants to fund community projects of member clubs in the areas of conservation, beautification, horticulture, preservation or education. The two-word name, Common Wealth, signifies the “wealth” that is “common” to all Virginians.

Garden Club of Virginia member clubs will vote on the projects prior to the Board of Governors meeting in October, at which time the winner(s) will be announced. The finalists are as follows:

A Trail to the River at Fort Christanna

Submitted by The Brunswick Garden Club

At its creation in 1714, Fort Christanna, built by Governor of the Colony of Virginia Alexander Spotswood was “the most western outpost of the British Empire.” In the 1990s, the area surrounding the pentagonal fort was made into a natural park with a walking trail, informational signage, a welcoming kiosk and a “learning circle” for school tours. This new project would transform an undeveloped footpath into a widened, wheelchair-accessible trail that leads from the fort area to a new terrace overlooking the Meherrin River. From here, rustic steps would be built into the slope to access to the river’s edge, potential site of a canoe dock as designated by the Virginia Tourism Corporation. Natural materials would be used, and the ground would be covered by landscape cloth and crusher run to protect the site for future archaeology. Labels would identify native wildflowers and trees.

Mill Mountain Wildflower Garden: The Next Fifty Years and Beyond Enhancing the Visitor Experience Through Educational Signage

Submitted by The Mill Mountain Garden Club

High atop Mill Mountain, in the middle of Roanoke’s most visited urban park and surrounded by ten miles of hiking, biking and walking trails, is the Mill Mountain Wildflower Garden. As primary caretakers, members of the Mill Mountain Garden Club tend the iconic 2.5-acre garden weekly. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the garden, the club has been ambitiously fundraising to restore critical features of the garden and to provide accessible pathways, improved entrances and landscaping. Building is in progress. The Common Wealth Award would provide funds for signage to enhance the education of the visitor and to highlight the mission of conservation. Along the Discovery Trail, four permanent, colorful signs will showcase Virginia native plants, wildflowers, trees, insects and pollinators and will emphasize the nexus of nature, climate science and health.

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Rappahannock Valley Garden Trail

Submitted by The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club

The proposed Rappahannock Valley Garden Trail will encourage the residents and many visitors to the Fredericksburg area to explore all public gardens in the vicinity, the inconspicuous as well as the prominent. Included in the trail are three GCV restoration sites (Kenmore, Mary Washington House and Belmont), a Tree USA campus with noteworthy gardens (University of Mary Washington), a garden designed by renowned landscape architect Ellen Biddle Shipman (Chatham), Downtown Greens community garden, the Cossey Botanical Park Arboretum, and the native plant demonstration garden at Cedell Brooks Jr. Park in King George. In addition, the annual Historic Garden Week tour will be promoted. The Fredericksburg tourism office will host and maintain the online garden trail brochure linked to its website. The paper brochure will be available at this office and at tourist destinations throughout the region.

Living Green Wall at Brock Environmental Center's Classroom Annex

Submitted by The Virginia Beach Garden Club

The Virginia Beach Garden Club is supporting the inclusion of a “green wall” in the Virginia Beach Public School’s classroom annex affiliated with the Brock Environmental Center. Virginia Beach City Public Schools and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation are partners in a new environmental studies program for high school students focusing on environmental science, green building practices and solutions to issues like sea level rise and degraded waterways. A classroom with the green wall is a model of sustainability. Green walls reduce energy costs and reduce noise by absorbing acoustic energy. An interior living green wall not only provides environmental health benefits associated with the outdoors but also helps students combat attention fatigue by connecting students to “outdoor nature” within the indoor environment. Green walls require greenery, a growing medium and a water delivery system. 🌱



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Welcome, Three Rivers Garden Club

by Janet Rosser, GCV Corresponding Secretary
The Ashland Garden Club

In addition to celebrating the Garden Club of Virginia Centennial this year, the GCV marked another rare event – one that had not occurred for 23 years. With the recommendation of the GCV membership committee and approval of the GCV board of directors, the membership voted to invite Three Rivers Garden Club of New Kent and Charles City counties to become the 48th GCV member club. Happily, Three Rivers accepted the invitation.

With the support of the GCV, especially former GCV President Jeanette Cadwallender and the Ashland Garden Club as the mentoring club, a group of ladies from New Kent and Charles City began to organize in 2015. As a first order of business, the group adopted the name Three Rivers Garden Club, referring to the York, Pamunkey and James rivers that flow through the two counties. Three Rivers member Ginny Green designed the club's colorful logo, which features a great blue heron hunting among cattails and invokes thoughts of life on the local rivers.

After Three Rivers officially launched in February 2016, it assisted the Ashland Garden Club annually with Historic Garden Week tours and cohosted a HGW tour in New Kent County in 2018. Bonds of friendship emerged between the two neighboring clubs, and several joint club meetings boosted camaraderie. During its first four years, Three Rivers offered its members educational programs with speakers on conservation, beautification, restoration, gardening and flower arranging. Three Rivers grew to more than 30 members, participated in community beautification projects, took field trips to Maymont and beyond and developed club traditions, such as its annual holiday luncheon at Upper Shirley Vineyards.

Upon recommendation of the Ashland Garden Club in the fall of 2019, the GCV membership committee determined that Three Rivers was a suitable member club, pursuant to GCV bylaws. Many Three Rivers members then attended the biennial meeting of the Ashland, Brunswick and Petersburg Garden Clubs at the Kent-Valentine House in November to meet President Jean Gilpin and to become further acquainted with GCV. Jean and other board members held further discussions with Three Rivers president and leadership to clarify the obligations associated with GCV membership.

Not since the 1997 admission of the Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula has a new club been invited to join GCV. Celebrating the Centennial year with the addition of a vibrant new member club is symbolic of GCV's continued purpose, relevance and significance in 2020 and beyond. Welcome to the Garden Club of Virginia, Three Rivers Garden Club! 🌸





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2020 GCV Horticulture Award of Merit

by Wendy Walker, GCV Horticulture Committee Chairman
The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

Established in 1960, the prestigious Horticulture Award of Merit recognizes individual members of the Garden Club of Virginia who have achieved significant accomplishments in horticulture, both personally and in the community at large.

Karen Cogar Abramson, The Hunting Creek Garden Club

A graphic designer and painter, Karen has won the Gold Ribbon for best in show at three national daffodil conventions. An American Daffodil Society judge since 2005, she generously shares her talents and expertise on growing daffodils and roses, as well as staging specimens for shows and writing schedules. Karen's fellow members admire her exotic specimens and her leadership in many prestigious roles held in her club, as well as in the Washington Daffodil Society and the ADS.



Jane W. Hammond, Dolley Madison Garden Club

Jane's childhood passion for horticulture and her continued interest and education led to a successful, sustainable food farm and leadership in the Charlottesville Local Food Hub, providing nutritious food to many. Her teaching workshops share this expertise with area clubs. An active grower and shower in GCV horticulture shows, North American Lily Society, American Daffodil Society and Garden Club of America, Jane has garnered many awards for her excellent work.



Phyllis Ripper, Rivanna Garden Club

Phyllis combines her passion for horticulture with her keen interest in conservation and community service. She designed and managed the creation of a garden at Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention, which received the 2015 GCV Common Wealth Award. With her husband she has planted and maintains hundreds of trees and shrubs on their farm to enhance the land and to serve as riparian buffers. Phyllis maintains the club's 50-plus-year-old lilac collection.



Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award Winner for 2020

*Weir Garden at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley
Little Garden Club of Winchester
by Heidi James, GCV Conservation Awards Chairman*

The Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award, established in 2009 in memory of the former Garden Club of Virginia president, is a monetary award that is funded through the GCV, with the generous support of the Carter family. Clubs receiving this award must implement a project that conserves resources and/or protects the environment, benefits a local community or the entire Commonwealth of Virginia, and should serve as a catalyst for community action and inspire future conservationists and conservation accomplishments.

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This year's winner is the Weir Garden at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, a project of the Little Garden Club of Winchester. Stone weirs – low, dam-like structures – will regulate water flow during periods of extreme precipitation. The garden will educate visitors on the importance of storm water management. After clearing invasive plants, a garden of wildflowers and grassy meadows will be established among the weirs. This garden will also serve as a naturally managed wildlife habitat. The Weir Garden is a significant component of a trail system on the museum's grounds, which will become Virginia's largest public art park when it opens in 2020. 🌸

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Clarkie and Tom Eppes
Robert A. Henkel
Patricia Reid Webb Leggett*
Mary Wynn Richmond McDaniel
Katherine Turner Mears
Helen Turner Murphy*
Margaret W. Talman
Cabell Goolsby West
Susan Wight
Mina Wood

*deceased

If you have made a bequest gift to the Garden Club of Virginia and would like to be recognized as a member of our Green Arrow Society, please contact development@gcvirginia.org.

*Thank you members, clubs, sponsors and friends
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The GCV Development Committee*



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