

THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA



M.P. Hickey

Iris germanica var.
bearded iris

VOL LXV, NO. 1, MARCH 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.

FROM THE EDITOR

As the Garden Club of Virginia enters the home stretch of its Centennial celebrations, many member clubs are focusing on projects at home to honor the GCV's 100th birthday. From park benches to daffodil plantings to restored cemetery gates, the tributes extend across the commonwealth.

With spring arriving, we are preparing for two of our favorite annual GCV events: Daffodil Day and the 87th Historic Garden Week in Virginia. In this issue the daffodil committee shares the American Daffodil Society's survey of the top 25 daffodil varieties. Historic Garden Week, "America's Largest Open House," continues to fund 41 active restoration sites, historic landscape research fellowships and grants to Virginia State Parks.

In May, club members are invited to Richmond to enjoy the newly renovated Kent-Valentine House; lectures by a prominent landscape architect and conservationist and by a world-renowned floral designer; a luncheon at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts; and a gala reception and grand opening of "A Landscape Saved: The Garden Club of Virginia at 100" exhibition at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture. Let's celebrate!

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2019-2020

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ON THE COVER...

Iris germanica, the beloved bearded iris, is exquisitely rendered in watercolor by Mary Page Hickey of the Garden Club of Alexandria.

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OTHER REFERENCES...

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historicgardenweek@gmail.com
vagardenweek.org

Postmaster, please send address changes to:

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12 East Franklin St.
Richmond, VA 23219

The James River Garden Club Creation, Conservation, Collaboration

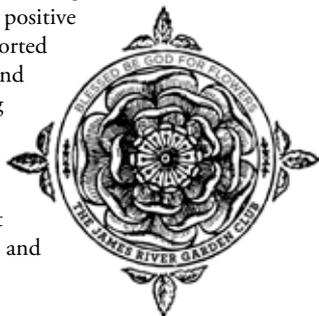
by Kathleen Reid
The James River Garden Club

In 1915, Juanita Patterson created an enduring legacy of protecting and preserving the beauty of the Virginia landscape when she founded the James River Garden Club and served as its first president (1915-1919). Upon completion of her term, she created the Garden Club of Virginia by proposing to her successor, Laura Wheelwright (JRGC president 1919-1922, 1926-1928, 1936-1938), that eight Virginia clubs be invited to Richmond in 1920 to form a federation. Mrs. Patterson (1920-1922) and Mrs. Wheelwright (1922-1924, 1938-1940) served consecutively as the first two presidents of the Garden Club of Virginia.

Mrs. Patterson's original objectives continue to inform the mission of the James River Garden Club: "to promote interest in gardens, their design and management; to cooperate in the protection of wildflowers, trees, and native plants and to encourage civic planting." Under the innovative direction of her successors who led the club through two World Wars, the Great Depression and the social changes of the 1960s, James River Garden Club members have tackled the needs of their times. Highlights include:

- Planting the community's first Victory Gardens to counter food shortages during World War I
- Lobbying for improved roadways
- Pioneering a 1927 public radio campaign to conserve Virginia's natural resources
- Establishing Gardens for the Unemployed, a city-wide, Depression-era initiative to cultivate vacant lots to feed government-selected local families in need
- Restoring Virginia's landmarks, including Hollywood Cemetery, Maymont Park, Monumental Church, the Science Museum, the Valentine Museum and the White House of the Confederacy
- Producing *A Taste of Virginia*, the 1980 JRGC cookbook and its updated edition, *Through the Garden Gate*, to provide funds for numerous JRGC projects
- Funding an urban recycling program that has reached 10,000 households
- Collaborating with Boxwood, Three Chopt and Tuckahoe garden clubs since 2010 to beautify Richmond's urban environment, creating Capital Trees which has evolved into a public-private partnership.

The JRGC has become a respected voice in the community, its members advocating for clean air, clean water, recycling, organic farming and reduction in pesticide use. It has nurtured its membership, fostered positive partnerships with individuals and businesses and supported the important initiatives of Garden Club of America and GCV. JRGC President Susan J. Rawles said: "Working with and for our neighbors in the development and management of a healthy and healing environment has been, and will continue to be, our primary objective. As we advance our mission through the next hundred years of service, we will keep our minds open and our hands ready to meet the needs of the future." ❁



DAFFODILS THROUGH THE CENTURIES: A REFLECTION

Hosted by the Garden Club of Virginia and the American Daffodil Society

“Reflection is a
flower of the mind,
giving out wholesome
fragrance ...”

— DESIDERIUS ERASMUS



GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA

DAFFODIL DAY

RICHMOND 2020

LEWIS GINTER BOTANICAL GARDEN

Photo courtesy of Jane Hammond, blue ribbon winner in photography in 2019

Join Garden Club of Virginia members and fellow daffodil enthusiasts for Daffodil Day. This event, our 86th annual show, will feature award winning daffodil specimens, spectacular floral arrangements and eye-catching photography in one of the nation's largest daffodil shows. Nearly 2,000 stems will dazzle attendees as we celebrate the GCV's Centennial.



GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA

Centennial

1920-2020

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA AT 100

This milestone in the club's history features special programs, celebrations and educational opportunities throughout the state.

Open to the public 2 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

Registration & Volunteer Positions available at GCVirginia.org/DaffodilDay

In Memoriam 2019

*Virginia "Ginny" Lee Richardson
Anderson*

Joanne McLellan Bartlett

Betsey Jean Smith Brown

Roberta McCandlish Graham Carter

Helen Trotman Chapman

*Rachel Jaqueline "Jackie" Roberson
Compton*

Lucy Kellogg Daniel

Jill Crafton Dart

Margaret Cole Davis

Margaret "Peggy" Ford Dent

Hortencia "Tencha" Mesa Gilpin

Barbara Burgess Wassell Goldsten

Jean Fall Haire

Virginia "Pete" Wilson Bradley Hall

Virginia "Ginna" Gatewood Harrison

Ilmar Heinaru

Nell Glenn Holt

Louise "Lula" Gilliam Hopkins

Betsy Tuggle Jones

Lillian "Li" Graves Kendall

Ruth Edwards Keyser

Frances Booth Kincanon

Betty Newman Lea

Frances Martin Shackelford Leavitt

Louise Eggleston Martin

Virginia "Jinnie" Bliss Trestler Mason

Finley Schottland McCutcheon

Peggy Frazier McDonald

Nancy Lynn Cole McFadden

Helen Turner Murphy

Ellen Nock Nelson

Anne Bryant Nock

Joy DeLancey Wingfield Philpott

Mary Catherine Sours Plaster

Lucy Grove Powell

Elizabeth Pinkerton Scott

Sallie Stallworth Sebrell

Lucy Jane "Polly" Newman Smith

Natalie "Nat" Zirkle Sowers

Kathryn "Kitty" Paris Vaden Sparrow

Nancy Mulcahy Sweet

*Margaret "Margie" Spencer Shackelford
Toms*

Frances "Payne" Bouknight Tyler

Alvis Perry Winslow

Betty Wilson Wright

In Memoriam lists the names of Garden Club of Virginia members who have died within the past year, compiled by the *Journal* from names submitted by club presidents.



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Dolley Madison Garden Club Presents
DUELING ARRANGERS

DAVID PIPPEN *challenges* TOM MAY



~In an epic~
**Flower Arranging
Showdown!**

Wednesday, March 18, 2020
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

The Pavilion at Lakeland Farm,
13528 Sedwick Lane,
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Advance Tickets \$50/person
(Ticket includes light refreshments
and a glass of wine,
additional wine \$4/glass)

Tickets for sale on Eventbrite (www.eventbrite.com)
Tickets at the door \$55/person.

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Wednesday, April 15, 9:00-4:00

400 Harlan Circle Richmond, Virginia

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Nominations

The Board of Directors approved the following slate of officers and directors at large for the Garden Club of Virginia to serve from May 2020 until May 2022.

The membership will vote at the May 2020 annual meeting.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Missy Buckingham
The Boxwood Garden Club

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Debbie Lewis
The Garden Study Club

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Kris Carbone
The Garden Club of Danville

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Julie Grover
The Blue Ridge Garden Club

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Wendy Walker
The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

TREASURER

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The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club

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Three Chopt Garden Club

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 OF VIRGINIA
Centennial
 1920-2020

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for the GCV Centennial

Available at the Kent-Valentine House, select Garden Club of Virginia events,
and at gcvirginia.org/centennial

GCV Centennial Scarf

Local botanicals create a lush border complete with pollinators. The colors are soft, subtle and intended for year-round wear. 17" x 70" Hand-rolled and hemmed silk twill **\$100***



GCV Centennial Tervis Tumbler

This 16-oz. Tervis Tumbler sports a bright green Centennial logo patch. Stock up for all your entertaining needs. **\$20**



Take your Tervis with you! Now offering Travel Lids. **\$5**



Not available online

GCV Centennial Ties

Creating a subtle overall pattern of the signature GCV leaf logo, these handsome ties are 100% imported silk and hand sewn in the USA. Ties are offered in grass green and blue. **\$85***



Waterford Crystal Keepsake

This limited edition Waterford Crystal Disk Keepsake is the perfect way to celebrate and commemorate the GCV Centennial. It also makes a lovely gift. 3.2" x 4" ~~\$75*~~ **\$50**



***\$5 flat rate shipping**

Centennial Celebrations

by Missy Buckingham, GCV First Vice President and
Centennial Steering Committee Chairman
The Boxwood Garden Club

Excitement about the Garden Club of Virginia Centennial continues to grow as our members across the state celebrate in their clubs and communities. The committee is finalizing plans for the Founders Day Centennial events May 12-14, 2020, in Richmond. Event ticket sales have been vigorous. Please remember to print your tickets and bring them with you to the events.

The Virginia Museum of History & Culture curator is preparing for the exhibition, "A Landscape Saved: The Garden Club of Virginia at 100," to feature the history and accomplishments of the GCV. The exhibition will have its grand opening to gala attendees on the evening of May 13 and will remain open at the museum until Sept. 6, 2020. (Ample parking is provided during all events at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture and the parking deck at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.) Creative arrangements will be featured at the museum during the events.

Centennial merchandise continues to be sold online, at the Kent-Valentine House and at select GCV events. Don't miss this opportunity to own a limited edition GCV commemorative Centennial item. 🌿

A NEW EVENT
to add to your calendar.

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

Virginia Museum of History & Culture
Banner Lecture

Thursday, May 21, 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 member Betsy Worthington will discuss the legacy of the GCV in the context of two current projects and their unexpected connection to each other. More information at virginiahistory.org

GCV IS GRATEFUL TO OUR CENTENNIAL PARTNERS.
THANK YOU FOR CELEBRATING WITH US.



Atlantic Union Bank | Hilldrup | TowneBank
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GARDEN CLUB
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Centennial
1920-2020

GARDEN CLUB
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1920-2020

JOIN US IN RICHMOND
FOR CENTENNIAL
PROGRAMS & EVENTS



Photo courtesy of Warren Faught

Tuesday, May 12

Evening reception at the Kent-Valentine House, 5 to 7 p.m. **At capacity.**

Wednesday, May 13



Speaker Thomas L. Woltz at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture. Check-in begins at 10 a.m. Program at 10:30 a.m. *Garden & Gun* calls this rising star “a landscape architect committed to conservation and improving the world we live in.” *Open to members, their guests and the general public. \$40 per person.*

Luncheon at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Marble Hall, 12:30-2:30 p.m. **At capacity.**

Afternoon includes self-guided tours of GCV restoration sites and an opportunity to shop or enjoy local attractions.



Gala Reception and Grand Opening of the GCV exhibition, *A Landscape Saved: The Garden Club of Virginia at 100*, at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, 6 to 9 p.m. The story of the Garden Club of Virginia is colorful, courageous and impressive. Be the first to see it brought to life. Full bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Cocktail attire. *Open to GCV members and their guests. \$100 per person.*

Thursday, May 14



Flower Arranging Demonstration with Paula Pryke at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture. Check-in begins at 10 a.m. Program at 10:30 a.m. Learn style secrets from this London-based floral designer honored by Queen Elizabeth and sought after by A-list clientele. *Open to members, their guests and the general public. \$75 per person.*

Thursday, May 21



Photo courtesy of Regener Fahey

Restoring America's Most Significant Gardens: Stratford Hall, Poplar Forest and the Garden Club of Virginia at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture. 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 member Betsy Worthington discuss GCV's legacy in the context of two current projects and their unexpected connection to each other. *More information at virginiahistory.org*

Details and tickets at
GCVirginia.org/Centennial



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Ex Libris

The Art of Flower Arranging

by Meredith R. Lauter, *The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton*

Just as spring bursts with life, vitality and color, that same energy and magic leap from every page in Paula Pryke's *The Art of Flower Arranging*. Trained in the revered tradition of Constance Spry, whom she calls "the single most important figure in floristry and floral design in the twentieth century," Pryke's creations skillfully incorporate a brilliant mixture of cultural and artistic delights. A resounding KAPOW! shook the flower world when Paula Pryke first shared her tremendous talents. Her palette of vibrant color combinations and compelling textures command instant attention, drawing the eye directly into her designs.



Whole sections of her book detail colors and how to use them to their best effect, as well as how seasonal colors and textures can express a theme or complement surroundings. Discussions of scale and shape help us comprehend two additional essential elements of design. She condenses the traditional "room for a butterfly" form to a more compact and dynamic combination of glorious materials that resonates with today's contemporary trends.

She often incorporates floral materials into the overall design and container. Fruit or berries packed in glass, blossoms paved as a base or lavender sprigs secured around a perimeter, all appear with illustrations and instructions. Chapters titled "Backyard Blooms" and "Muse Flowers" list favorite blossoms suitable for long-lasting pleasure and her very favorite flowers with sidebars detailing the ingredients of each design.

Following each year's first cold snap, florist finds come increasingly into play. "Flower-shop Favorites" and "Stems and Foliage" present an opportunity for a more simplified style of arrangement. "Seasonal Palettes" highlights distinctive expressions throughout the year.

For all arrangers – beginners or experts – or those who simply enjoy a simple vase of flowers on the kitchen table, Paula Pryke's *The Art of Flower Arranging* conveys important information, instruction and inspiration. She captures and shares how flowers can express one's unique personality and create a little piece of heaven in our everyday lives. 🌸

Editor's Note: As part of the Garden Club of Virginia Founders Day events, Paula Pryke will present a flower-arranging demonstration on May 14 at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture. Visit gcvirginia.org/centennial for information and tickets.

“Father and Son” Gardeners

Wythe and Jefferson

by Suzanne Munson

As the Garden Club of Virginia anticipates its 100th anniversary, consider two of the club’s finest restoration projects funded by Historic Garden Week tours: Thomas Jefferson’s Pavilion Gardens at the University of Virginia and his Monticello gardens and grounds.

Since Jefferson gained recognition as a master horticulturist, it is interesting to explore how he might first have acquired his love of gardening. It is unlikely that he had spent extensive time studying agronomy before leaving home at 16 to enroll at the College of William & Mary. At 19, Jefferson was grateful when noted attorney and statesman George Wythe accepted him as his legal apprentice. Wythe influenced the young man’s love of horticulture as well as his love of learning. For five years, the two studied and worked together in Wythe’s Williamsburg home office, where they formed a bond like that of father and son that would last a lifetime.



UVA Pavilion III

Wythe was a member of the Virginia Society for the Promotion of Useful Knowledge. It is likely that he asked Jefferson to join the group in their studies. Rock star scientist Benjamin Franklin, a friend of Wythe’s, was a corresponding member of the society. Members peered into the heavens with their telescopes at night and studied nature’s bounty at daylight. They kept records detailing plant growth, weather and other horticultural matters—a practice that Jefferson would emulate and continue throughout his life. Leaders in Wythe’s circle also promoted viticulture as a Virginia industry, another agricultural enterprise that young Jefferson would observe and support later.

Wythe had a large garden behind his house on Palace Green, almost a small farming operation, maintained now by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Often dining with George Wythe and his wife, Elizabeth, Jefferson enjoyed fresh meals. He adopted Wythe’s mostly vegetarian diet, with meat for seasoning. Later, Jefferson suggested that this diet be followed by students at the University of Virginia.



*View of the Kitchen Road Project at Monticello
©Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello*

When planning the university, Jefferson tried to replicate the special relationship that he had with his mentor in the distinctive design of his Academical Village. To foster a close professor-student bond, he built faculty houses with classrooms on the first floor adjacent to student rooms. Behind the houses, he planned beautiful gardens where teachers and pupils could study and converse. The Garden Club of Virginia began the restoration of Jefferson's Pavilion Gardens at the university in 1947 and continues its commitment to their upkeep. As in Jefferson's time, the gardens serve today as lovely private spaces for students, faculty and visitors — gracious retreats from the clamor of the outside world.

Over the years, Wythe and Jefferson shared an abiding love of plant life through gifts and letters. In writing a biography of George Wythe, I discovered much correspondence about the subject. The letters followed these themes:

Notes and gifts of condolence: In 1770, a fire at his family home in Shadwell devastated Jefferson, destroying his prized library and scores of valued letters. Wythe wrote a kind note of condolence and sent his best nectarine and apricot grafts, two plant catalogs and the promise of peas from his garden.

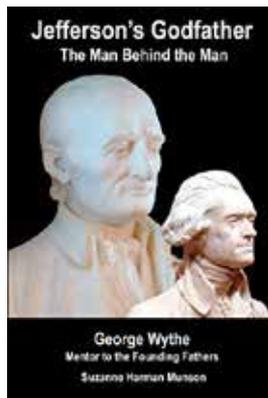
Notes and gifts of scientific interest: While traveling in Italy in 1787, Jefferson wrote Wythe of the marvels of the olive tree, the “richest gift of heaven,” speculating about its use in Virginia. In 1790, he sent his friend a few seeds of highland rice gathered from the East Indies, noting that rice would be “a most precious thing” if they could find a way to grow it at home. Jefferson was always looking for new cash crops to supplement his operations at Monticello.

Since the 1920s, the Garden Club of Virginia has supported a series of important landscape initiatives at Monticello. Restoration projects have revived the gardens and, most recently, included a realignment and renewal of the kitchen road linking Mulberry Row and the house.

Notes of friendship: Worried about Wythe's health, Jefferson invited his mentor to Monticello in 1794 when Wythe was 68 years old. Recalling Wythe's love of figs, Jefferson said that he had grown a bumper crop and “daily wished you could have partaken of ours this year.” He added: “I ever wish to have opportunities of enjoying your society.”

Perhaps Jefferson was thinking of George Wythe when he wrote these words: “Friendship is precious, not only in the shade, but in the sunshine of life, and thanks to a benevolent arrangement, the greater part of life is sunshine.” ☀

Editor's Note: *Suzanne Munson served as executive director of Historic Garden Week from 1992 to 2011. She is the author of the George Wythe biography, Jefferson's Godfather: The Man Behind the Man, and lectures frequently on the Wythe-Jefferson legacy.*



Club Notes

Winchester-Clarke Garden Club

Abrams Creek Wetlands
by Terry Chandler

On Oct. 11, 2019, Winchester-Clarke celebrated the Centennial by dedicating a beautiful park bench in the middle of the Abrams Creek Wetlands to Garden Club of Virginia President Jean Gilpin. There were more than 30 members in attendance, along with representatives from Shenandoah University and Winchester City Parks and Recreation Department. After the dedication, armed with pruning shears, loppers, saws, boots and work clothes, we attacked the small trees that threatened to turn the wetlands into a swamp. On Oct. 12 we worked in the upper and lower wetlands. The lower wetland had been cut five years earlier and, because the stumps had not been treated, the trees that grew back were already 20 feet tall.



Photo credit: Valerie Fox

Another cut is planned in March, dubbed “Marsh Madness.” We will again focus on the lower wetland where those 20-foot trees will have to go and this time be properly treated so they don’t return. Future plans include an observation deck so visitors can enjoy the wetlands without disturbing their ecosystems. All these activities are possible through awards from the GCV, Garden Club of America and Winchester-Clarke Garden Club. ❁

The Charlottesville Garden Club

Loaves & Fishes – Neighbors Nourishing Neighbors
by Polly Talbott

On Nov. 14, 2019, members of the Charlottesville Garden Club ventured out to Loaves & Fishes, a local food pantry, to do some gardening. Azaleas and ferns (donated by Jeffri and Tommy Adkins), daffodil bulbs and liriop were planted under Holly Maillet’s guidance and master plan. Future work there will involve the construction of a fence by a local young man for his Eagle Scout project. Brett Holden has offered many of the materials needed, as well as his expertise. Thanks also to Kate Zirkle, Nan Brody and Aileen Kelly for keeping this project alive. ❁



Boo Greene, Amy Harris, Meredith Mercer, Robin Cherry, Holly Maillet and Jean Marie Holden gathered to plant shrubs to beautify the entrance. It was a cold day, but their busy hands kept them somewhat warm.

The Garden Club of Gloucester

*Partnership with Arts on Main
by Susan Howard*

The Garden Club of Gloucester has partnered with the Arts on Main gallery to launch two programs as part of the Gloucester County Daffodil Festival on April 4, 2020: Children's Daffodil Arranging and Art and Flowers. Both are easily replicable by other clubs in association with local arts or festival organizations.

The children's program, for ages 6-13, features a different theme each year, such as "Daffodils on Parade," "Buckets of Fun" or "Hats Off to Daffodils." All supplies, member-grown daffodils and containers are provided by the club. Members assist children in choosing flowers and greens, then guide them through arranging while allowing their creative talents to shine. Many masterpieces are created, and the children take their arrangements home.

The second program, Art and Flowers, is for adults who register in advance. Participants choose a work of art to interpret in a floral arrangement featuring daffodils. The arrangement is displayed in front of the artwork during the Daffodil Festival.

Arts on Main generously donates the space so costs are limited to supplies. Please join us for the festival. 🌸



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NEW BOOK

A collection of botanical paintings of antique roses growing in the gardens of the Old City Cemetery Museums & Arboretum, Lynchburg, VA

Some of the artists featured are members of the Lynchburg & Hillside Garden Clubs

Books available for \$35 starting April 25, 2020

May 1, 5–8 PM

Botanical Roses Florilegium Art Show Exhibit Opening & Reception

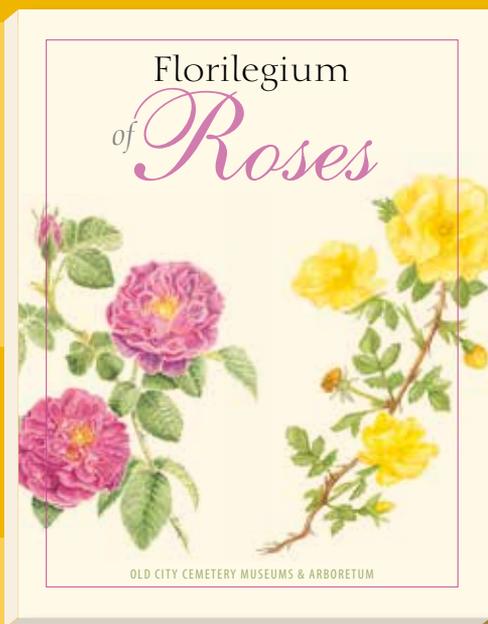
Academy Center for the Arts,
600 Main St., Lynchburg, VA

Exhibit continues through May 31, 2020

VISIT OR CONTACT:

Old City Cemetery Gift Shop

401 Taylor St., Lynchburg, VA 24501



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Member of The Lynchburg Garden Club



Old City Cemetery Museums & Arboretum

25TH ANNUAL

Antique Rose Festival & Sale

April 25–May 31, 2020

Largest antique rose sale in the mid-Atlantic region

April 25, 2020 (Saturday, 9am–3pm)
Rose Festival & Plant Sale begins

Continues daily through May 31, 2020
Botanical Rose Florilegium book first release

May 1 (First Friday, 5–8pm)
Botanical Roses Florilegium Art Show
Exhibit Opening & Reception

Academy Center for the Arts, 600 Main St.,
Lynchburg, VA. Rose Florilegium book &
other items for sale. Exhibit runs through
May 31. *Free.*

May 2 (Saturday, 9am–3pm)
Ready, Set, Bloom! Rose Symposium at

Cemetery Center. Speakers:
Cemetery Roses: How it all Began –
Jane White, Jessica Ward, Mina Wood
Landscaping with Roses –
Bruce Christian
Roses Through the Ages – Kaye Moomaw
Why Botanicals? –
Tica Sydnor & Linda Murphy
Plus Rose Tours of Old City Cemetery
\$50 Advance registration includes
Symposium, lunch, rose tour.

May 8 (Friday, 5:30–7:30pm)
Wine & Roses Cocktail Reception

Enjoy a glass of rosé with sunset over the
425 antique roses. Rose Tour included. \$60
Advance registration required.

May 9 (Saturday, 10am–10:45am
or 11am–11:45am)

Learn to Draw Flowers

Taught by botanical artist Linda Murphy
Class for children (ages 8–12 years) and their
parent/adult chaperone
\$15 for one child & parent;
\$5 for each additional child
Advance registration required

May 10 (Sunday, 3–4pm)
Mother's Day Rose Walk

with Bruce Christian
Free. Advance registration preferred.

May 17 (Sunday, 3–4pm)

Rose Poetry Reading by poet Laura
Marello inspired by Antique Rose collection
Free. Advance registration preferred.

May 31 (Sunday, 1–5pm)
Last day of Rose Sale at Cemetery
& Botanical Roses Art Show
at Academy.

Advance registration for all events
(except Rose Sale & Art Show):
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Centennial Helps Connect the Dots

by Patricia H. Garner, Historic Garden Week Committee Chairman
The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club
Karen Ellsworth, Director of Historic Garden Week and Special Programs

The 29 Historic Garden Week tours that will commemorate the Garden Club of Virginia's Centennial year are exciting. Tour teams have been thoughtful and enthusiastic in their planning, while club members are busy setting up the infrastructure for the tour days, planning spectacular floral arrangements and preparing to welcome guests to what is commonly referred to as "America's Largest Open House." To support these Centennial-year tours, the HGW Committee has collaborated with other GCV committees to help showcase the clubs' efforts.

At the annual Boot Camp last summer, Horticulture Committee Chairman Wendy Walker provided for attendees a list of frequently requested flower-arranging material that can be grown specifically for HGW. While it is too cold to do any new planting in gardens now, we can all gather resources from the gardens of friends and neighbors and from roadsides on our daily commutes this spring. Not only is cutting locally one way to save money for your club, but it also showcases native plants and highlights the green thumbs of our members and friends. Look for Wendy's list in the March president's online Membership News for a handy reminder and a little inspiration.

Conservation can be highlighted during HGW, too. Travelers can "Refuse to Use" single-use products and instead bring a GCV Centennial tumbler or another reusable container. Several tours are actively encouraging HGW visitors to join the GCV in this effort. Carpooling with a group of friends during HGW and walking when possible reduce the carbon footprint. Tour teams have diligently worked on their distribution lists to ensure that boxes of Guidebooks go only to locations that are enthusiastic about sharing them, so that printing and paper are not wasted. Recycling brochures, Guidebooks and other paper products reduces the amount of waste that goes into landfills.



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Finally, the HGW and the Centennial committees have worked closely the past year to integrate the marketing and communications of our 100th anniversary to promote our most popular public program. Our collaboration has been both fun and fruitful. This year's Guidebook includes eye-catching photographs of our restorations, fellowship projects and state parks, with captioned explanations of the projects that have been funded by Historic Garden Week, emphasizing the connection between buying a HGW tour ticket and projects funded by HGW proceeds. We are excited to feature, in this way, the important work the 47 member clubs accomplish together as the GCV and the way our work has benefited the Commonwealth of Virginia. The story of the Garden Club of Virginia is colorful, courageous and inspiring. We look forward to seeing everyone as we tour the state for Historic Garden Week during this 100th anniversary year of our founding. 🌸

pretty and interesting will work well in Historic Garden Week properly conditioned. Flowering branches, colorful vines like wisteria and garden favorites like Lenten rose and Solomon's seal, make the task more fun. Use of plant material will allow your creative juices to flow.



Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award Finalists Announced

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

The finalists for the 2020 Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award have been selected and sent to our clubs. Club ballots are due to the Garden Club of Virginia by April 30, and the winner will be announced at the annual meeting in May. The finalists are:

The Little Garden Club of Winchester proposes the **Weir Garden** at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley. Stone weirs – low, dam-like structures – will regulate water flow during periods of extreme precipitation and will provide educational opportunities on the importance of storm water management. Among the many visitors to the museum are thousands of school children who enjoy the site annually free of charge. When cleared of invasive plants, a garden of wildflowers and a grassy meadow will be established among the weirs, serving not just as a storm water management and teaching tool but also as a naturally managed wildlife habitat, inspiring future generations to conserve our waterways. Along with this project, the Little Garden Club has sponsored the museum's entranceway wildflower meadow and will continue to serve as an ambassador for conservation awareness in the Winchester community. 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. Collaborations at the community and state level will encourage exploration of the relationship between art, nature, conservation and the environment.

The Lynchburg Garden Club and Hillside Garden Club will partner with the City of Lynchburg and Crowther Landscape Architecture in phase two of a **Roadside Biodiversity Initiative** launched in 2019, when we successfully established three acres of wildflower pollinator beds on local highways. In 2020-2021, we will install several large native plant demonstration beds, with signage, along a heavily traveled Lynchburg highway. The beds will feature pollinator-friendly native trees, shrubs and perennials and will provide continuous bloom throughout the growing season. During the winter, the faded plant material will be left intact to provide food and habitat for insects and wildlife. Because passersby may not appreciate a highly visible public garden that looks neglected, we will launch an educational campaign about this process through local media. The demonstration beds will serve as a model for promoting biodiversity. By boldly demonstrating this naturalistic approach to landscaping in a highly visible location, we will educate the public about the importance of native plants and continuous habitat and provide a model that can be used statewide on highways and in residential gardens. The project will serve as a conservation ideal that supports the local ecosystem. ❁

The Editorial Board welcomes submissions and reserves the right to edit them.

Nominations for the Dugdale Award and the Conservation Educator Award Due June 1

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

Please consider nominating a deserving person or organization for a prestigious Garden Club of Virginia conservation award. These two awards will be presented at the GCV Conservation Forum in the fall:

The Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award for Meritorious Achievement in Conservation: This award was first presented in 1974 and named in 1989 for Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale of the Ashland Garden Club. Mrs. Dugdale was the originator of the Conservation Forum. The award is presented annually for outstanding work in conservation to an organization, industry or an individual who is not a GCV member.

The Conservation Educator Award: Established in 2016, this award recognizes individuals or organizations whose work in an educational environment supports the conservation ideals of the GCV.

Proposals should be sent to the GCV Communications Coordinator at 12 East Franklin St., Richmond, 23219 or communications@gcvirginia.org. Nominations are to be postmarked by June 1 or received electronically by 5 p.m. on June 1. Former nominees not selected may be resubmitted. This is a wonderful way to recognize important work in the field of conservation. 🌸



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Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club

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Conservation and Environmental Studies Fellow

by Lynda Strickler, GCV Conservation and Beautification Committee
The Virginia Beach Garden Club

Heather Kenny is a second year master's student at the College of William & Mary and the Garden Club of Virginia's Conservation and Environmental Studies Fellow. She accepted the fellowship to explore animal personalities as she studied the Eastern Bluebird in order to determine how its behavior is affected by noise pollution. This study provided insight into how the bluebird perceives its environment and to what extent noise pollution and animal personality interact to influence population trends. Heather applied recorded traffic noise to nesting bluebird pairs to determine whether their personalities on the boldness/shyness spectrum interact with response to noise pollution. The study also provided insight into how the human-built environment may present threats to animals and how genetically determined behavioral tendencies might influence which individuals are capable of adjusting to city life. This project has been conducted with nest boxes in the Williamsburg area and maintained by volunteers from the Virginia Bluebird Society.



Heather Kenny

During the past semester, Heather compiled graphs of her results and began a formal data analysis. In the fall she presented preliminary results to the joint meeting of the Association of Field Ornithologists and the Wilson Ornithological Society. Based on her results, it appears that bluebirds do not change their behavior a great deal in response to experimental speakers. Heather found this to be a surprising revelation. Fieldwork for this spring began as bluebirds started nesting in February. We will receive a more comprehensive report during the 2020 annual meeting. 🌸

The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club

presents

Lilies in Bloom

In memory of Helen Turner Murphy

June 15-16, 2020

Fredericksburg Academy, Upper School Atrium

Paw Path Pollinator Garden

Update on 2018 Bessie Bocoek Carter Conservation Award

*by Susan Morris
The Martinsville Garden Club*

In 2018, the Martinsville Garden Club and the Garden Study Club were honored to receive the Bessie Bocoek Carter Conservation Award to develop the Paw Path Pollinator Garden. The half-mile-long Paw Path runs along the scenic Smith River at the Smith River Sports Complex. Designed to address conservation and preservation in the local community, the award has been used in four different ways to enhance the educational mission of the project.

First, a website was developed with an anticipated launch date in mid-January 2020. The website will increase local community visibility of the pollinator garden and increase public awareness of native plants and their importance in attracting pollinators. Second, a trifold marketing brochure was designed to accompany the Paw Path experience and direct tourists toward the trail. Third, additional signage was created to provide directions for driving to the Paw Path and for walking to the Paw Path from nearby neighborhoods and from the newly completed Dick and Willie Passage Trail, which follows a decommissioned railroad line from uptown Martinsville to the Smith River Sports Complex. Fourth, a 24-page coloring workbook has been developed which will be given to each first-grade child in Martinsville city schools, in Henry County schools and at Carlisle School in Martinsville. Sketches in the coloring book represent each of the native plants which are part of the conservation efforts of the Paw Path project and are labeled with interesting information about each one. Anticipated date for distributing the coloring books is mid-April 2020.

The monetary award from the Garden Club of Virginia has enabled the Martinsville Garden Club and the Garden Study Club to enhance the educational aspects of the pollinator garden and to increase the visibility and awareness of the garden throughout the Henry County area.

Come to Martinsville and Henry County, stroll along the Paw Path, enjoy the blooms of the native plants in their seasons and watch for the pollinators. 🌸



2020 Grants to Virginia State Parks

by Nina Mustard, GCV Virginia State Parks Committee Chairman
The Williamsburg Garden Club

The Garden Club of Virginia board of directors endorsed the recommendation from the Virginia State Parks Committee to provide funds to the following projects and programs in Virginia State Parks:

- **Bear Creek** - Erosion control and improvements for access and safety
The Boxwood Garden Club, Three Chopt Garden Club and The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton
- **Belle Isle** – Amphitheater and landscaping updates
The Garden Club of the Northern Neck
- **Chippokes Plantation** – Classroom renovations
- **Douthat** – Native plant landscaping
- **Hungry Mother** - Discovery Center display area
- **James River** - Native plant landscaping
Rivanna Garden Club
- **Kiptopeke** - Visitor Center educational space
The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore
- **Natural Bridge** - Base Camp and Dark Sky equipment
The Blue Ridge Garden Club
- **Natural Tunnel** - Visitor Center interpretive theme displays
- **New River Trail** - Foster Falls Depot Museum exhibits
- **Pocahontas** – Civilian Conservation Corps cabin stabilization project
- **Sailors Creek Historic Battlefield** - Pollinator garden
- **Seven Bends** - Natural play area and outdoor classroom
- **Widewater** - Native plant landscaping and beautification
The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club
- **York River** - Pollinator meadow
The Hampton Roads Garden Club, The Huntington Garden Club and The Williamsburg Garden Club

In addition to these projects, the Youth Conservation Corps will receive funding to aid in the purchase of supplies for the residential summer program.

Six parks to receive funds in 2020 are first-time applicants. The Garden Club of Virginia's \$500,000 centennial project to fund Virginia State Parks is making a lasting and visible difference around the commonwealth and advancing the mission of the Garden Club of Virginia. 🌱



100 Years of Creating a Legacy: Looking Back and Looking Ahead

by Kathy Moore
The Augusta Garden Club

The Augusta Garden Club was established in 1919 by a group of civic-minded women to “stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening.” The AGC is a founding member of the Garden Club of Virginia and joined the Garden Club of America in 1927. Throughout the past century, the AGC has expanded its influence, yet remains focused on horticulture, conservation, education and civic improvement. Since inception, the club has planted trees and gardens along city streets, parks and public spaces. Recently, the AGC spearheaded a dogwood restoration initiative, planting more than 100 dogwood trees and creating a teaching arboretum to educate the public about disease-resistant cultivars. Project Dogwood received funds from both the Garden Club of America’s Founder’s Fund and the Garden Club of Virginia’s Common Wealth Award. To date, the AGC has planted more than 1,000 dogwoods.

The Augusta Garden Club celebrated its Centennial all year with events, programs and initiatives which included:

- A lecture cosponsored by the club and the Staunton Public Library on Elizabeth Rawlinson, AGC’s pioneering plant lady and GCV *Garden Gossip* editor
- The club’s Historic Garden Week tour showcased five historic landmarks with connections to members, including the homes of former GCV presidents Emily Smith (Waverley Hill) and Lee Cochran (Stuart House)
- A gala at the Stuart House in April with Deedy Bumgardner, former GCV president and Massie Medal recipient, who gave a heartfelt toast
- “Wine, Conversation and Celebration” at Waverley Hill with author Mac Griswold
- Club meeting tributes “Memories & Mentors” and “Centennial Minutes,” featuring gems from the AGC archives
- Two contributions to mark the Centennial: \$5,000 to the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library for archaeological work near its historic garden, a GCV restoration site originally designed by Charles Gillette, and \$5,000 to the Gypsy Hill Park restoration effort
- Members planted 300 daffodils bulbs at Gypsy Hill Park to commemorate both the AGC’s and the GCV’s Centennials
- Members compiled and published *A Centennial Celebration: The Augusta Garden Club 1919-2019*
- Staunton’s mayor presented a proclamation to the AGC.

It is impossible to quantify the hours and service invested, the education and instruction, and the joy, pride and friendship gained by members of the Augusta Garden Club over the past 100 years. As the club’s eldest member, Doris Dixon (101 years young), said with a smile, “In the AGC, we do not rest on our laurels and rhododendrons!” The club looks forward to continuing its legacy into its next century. 🌸



Photo by Mark Miller

The Augusta Garden Club members strike a Centennial pose in the garden at the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library.

Daffodil Notes

25 Essential Daffodils

by Janet G. Hickman, GCV Daffodil Committee Chairman
Hillside Garden Club

“What would you grow if you could only grow 25 varieties of daffodils?” That was the question posed to the members of the American Daffodil Society in a poll recently conducted to prepare for the annual ADS Fall Forum held in Lynchburg at the end of October 2019. Recognizing that planting space may be limited for both new gardeners with starter homes and seasoned ones who have downsized, the forum focused on ways to use daffodils in small spaces by growing miniatures, by growing daffodils in pots and by carefully selecting a core list of varieties.

If you are new to daffodil cultivation, 25 varieties may sound like a lot. However, many of the 78 respondents to this questionnaire grow hundreds or thousands of varieties, so determining what is essential was challenging for them. Though 1,900 daffodils appeared in the lists submitted, there were clear favorites that rose to the top of the tabulation.

Many respondents made notations about the reasons for their choices, which ranged from beauty and hardiness to more sentimental attachments, such as “my first blue ribbon,” “given to me by my sister” or “grew in my grandmother’s garden.” All the top daffodils are older varieties easily available from bulb sources instead of the newest show winners. If forced to edit their daffodil varieties, respondents wanted tried-and-true reliable growers.

Here is the final list. (Twenty-six daffodils are listed because of ties.) See how many you can find at the Garden Club of Virginia Daffodil Day show and consider this list as you buy more daffodils this year. The entire spreadsheet of responses is available at DaffLibrary.org/ADS Pubs/Other ADS Publications. ❁

Rank #	Votes		Rank #	Votes	
1	45	Rapture	14-15	15	Ceylon
2	29	Sweetness	14-15	15	Intrigue
3	26	Fragrant Rose	16-19	13	Geranium
4-5	22	Tahiti	16-19	13	New Penny
4-5	22	Tête-à-Tête	16-19	13	Salome
6-8	19	Actaea	16-19	13	Xit
6-8	19	Hawera	20-26	12	Avalanche
6-8	19	Pacific Rim	20-26	12	Brooke Ager
9-11	18	Bravoure	20-26	12	Dainty Miss
9-11	18	Monal	20-26	12	Jetfire
9-11	18	Thalia	20-26	12	Mesa Verde
12	17	Barrett Browning	20-26	12	<i>N. jonquilla</i>
13	16	Conestoga	20-26	12	Tripartite

Editor’s Note: *Daffodil Workshop 2020 will be held March 23 at the Kent-Valentine House. Intended for GCV club daffodil chairmen and interested members, this workshop will focus on entering the upcoming GCV Daffodil Day. GCV daffodil committee members will demystify how to enter the daffodil show and share tips and techniques for presenting winning entries. Details at gcvirginia.org*

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Garden Pizzazz with Zinnias

by Leigh S. Barth
Hillside Garden Club

In March, the coming renewal of the earth and anticipation of summer gardens “spring” to mind. As encouragement to gardeners, recent publications have focused on developing cutting gardens as a way to extend the growing season for our enjoyment. Concurrently, there is a burgeoning interest in attracting pollinators to our gardens, supporting their fragile life cycles by providing friendly, pesticide-free environments. A pleasant and easy way to fulfill these objectives is to plant zinnias en masse. They come in a wide range of colors – yellow, bright red, fuchsia, orange, white, maroon, pink, green, salmon – and have a long blooming period. And happily, zinnias attract several types of butterflies and bees, as well as hummingbirds.



Zinnia seeds are widely available at your favorite nursery, the supermarket or online. Recent hybrids, as well as tried-and-true heirloom varieties, can be chosen. In March, plant seeds indoors using biodegradable peat pots for an easy way to get started. These can be moved outdoors after the threat of frost passes without disturbing the infant plants. Zinnias sprout in 2-3 days, so one does not have to wait long to be rewarded with seedlings. They will also perform just as well being planted directly into the ground later in the spring and up to the first of August in warm climates. Zinnias are deer resistant and drought tolerant, though they are happier during dry spells with watering via drip irrigation hose. They perform best in full sun. With frequent clipping of blossoms, the plants will continue to bloom profusely all summer and right up until the first strong frost, which can be as late as November for many of us. Their seeds are a favorite of goldfinches and other small birds. Zinnias are flowers that keeps on giving.

Having a garden full of zinnias encourages arranging. Their cheerfulness and informality will bring summer inside to brighten and grace any room. With regular changes of water, zinnias will last a week to ten days. Adding a small bit of bleach to a vase of water will help keep the water clear and prolong freshness.

Whether part of a well-developed cutting garden or a designated corner of landscape that needs brightening, zinnias are a wonderful solution, bringing immense joy and satisfaction. Give them a try this year! 🌸

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Connie Kellam's Garden, The Garden Club of Norfolk

Photo by Mark Edward Atkinson

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THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA CALENDAR 2020

- March 1 Deadline for Nominations for the Common Wealth Award, de Lacy Gray Medal and Horticulture Award of Merit
- March 23 Daffodil Workshop, Richmond
- March 31 Daffodil Day, Richmond
- April 15 Deadline for June *Journal* Submissions
- April 18-25 Historic Garden Week in Virginia
- May 11-12 100th GCV Annual Meeting, Richmond
- May 12-14 Founders Day Events, Richmond
- June 1 Deadline for Nominations for the Conservation Educator Award and Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Conservation Award
- June 16 Lilies in Bloom, Fredericksburg

Dates and events as posted on the GCV website, gcvirginia.org. See website for further additions.