

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

# JOURNAL

Late Summer 2024 | Volume LXIX | No. 2

## INSIDE

2024 Annual Meeting Highlights + Award Recipients

Common Wealth Award Finalists

Meet Kris Carbone!

HGW & Impactful Volunteerism



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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).

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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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Madeline Mayhood, *Journal* Editor  
c/o Garden Club of Virginia  
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ABOVE LEFT  
*Susanne Massie, Albemarle Garden Club,  
GCV President 1926-28*

ABOVE RIGHT  
Old Town Alexandria, HGW 2024

COVER ART:  
*Collage of Baby Bots from Blackwell  
Botanicals by Anne Blackwell Thompson,  
The James River Garden Club*



REMEMBERING KATTY MEARS  
*L-R: Former GCV President  
Helen Murphy (The Garden Club of  
the Northern Neck) with her sister,  
Katty Mears, of The Garden Club of the  
Eastern Shore.*



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THIS ISSUE HAS GCV AWARDS NEWS GALORE, ALL STARTING ON PAGE 11



## ON THE COVER: ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

## ANNE BLACKWELL THOMPSON

*The James River Garden Club*

Many members of the Garden Club of Virginia know Anne Blackwell Thompson. Not only is she on the GCV and GCA speaker circuit, presenting to garden clubs from coast to coast, but her pressed botanicals hang in private and corporate collections throughout Virginia and beyond. At any given moment, this Texas native, a longtime member of The James River Garden Club, may dash off to harvest plant material from the marshes of South Carolina or the foothills of the Blue Ridge. Her Blackwell Botanicals studio, in Richmond's Scott's Addition, doubles as a gallery, where her work is displayed in various stages. The *Journal* is so pleased to feature a collage of her "Baby Bots" on this issue's cover.

**Q: What do you call yourself? Botanical artist? Dried botanical expert? Botany presser?**

**ABT:** I introduce myself as a Botanical Artist but then quickly describe my art medium: pressed botanical specimens. The intersection of botany and art is my sweet spot!

**Q: Who's your favorite artist and why?**

**ABT:** So many favorite artists but one in particular is Blott Kerr-Wilson, a Norfolk, UK-based Shell artist who specializes in elaborate assembled garden follies embellished with seashells. Another artist whom I greatly admire is Cayce Zavaglia who is based in St. Louis and replicates brushstrokes on large-scaled embroidery portraits. Both artists have taken a unique spin on traditional craft material (shells and thread) and flipped the switch to create art that is magical and spellbinding.

**Q: What did you study in college and how has it impacted you professionally**

**ABT:** I majored in Educational Psychology and also studied art history/studio art abroad and post-college. Decorative arts has always been my passion.

**Q: What's your favorite plant/ bloom to press and why?**

**ABT:** My favorite plant to press varies from season to season. Presently, I am quite drawn to large ferns and lily pads, but grasses have also stolen my heart. I'm fickle about favorites—each month I have a new crush.

**Q: What's your preferred place to harvest and in what season?**

**ABT:** I am fond of all the different zones—from New England to Florida to wildflowers in the west. That is the beauty of plant pressing ... every zone and season is unique.

**Q: What tools are you never without?**

**ABT:** My car is always loaded up with harvesting tools just in case I stumble across plant material that is begging to be pressed—wellies, clippers (4-5 different sizes), scalpels, tweezers, rubbing alcohol for cleaning, large trash bags, a saw or ax, and gloves. I would have some 'splainin' to do if I was pulled over!

**Q: What's your favorite flower?**

**ABT:** It all depends on the season, but I have been quite partial to *Cosmos bipinnatus* this summer.

**Q: What's on your bedside table?**

**ABT:** My bedside table is stacked with all types of gardening and nature books. Currently, I am engrossed with Floret Farm's



Individual "Baby Bots" of pressed flowers, foliage, and seaweed are 5"x7" each.  
[BlackwellBotanicals.com](http://BlackwellBotanicals.com)



*Discovering Dahlias* along with *Lotusland* and *The Curious World of Seaweed*.

**Q: Who are your biggest cheerleaders?**

**ABT:** My biggest cheerleaders are my family, neighbors, and friends. I also have met so many kind and encouraging members of the design community through antique and garden shows.

**Q: What do you like best about your garden club?**

**ABT:** James River Garden Club means the world to me. I am in awe of the devotion and energy our members have about horticulture, conservation, and flower arranging. Also, the educational opportunities are endless! 🌿

## GCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2026

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**District 2 (2023-2025):** Michelle Jennings, Rivanna Garden Club

**District 3 (2024-2026):** Mary (Rennie) McDaniel, The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club

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**District 5 (2023-2025):** Suzi Worsham, Leesburg Garden Club, The Garden Club of Fairfax

**District 6 (2023-2025):** Stephanie Broadwater, The Nansemond River Garden Club

**Executive Director:** Andrea Butler

## A MESSAGE FROM GCV'S 53RD PRESIDENT



On May 23, 2024, I was humbled and honored to become the 53rd President of the Garden Club of Virginia. My journey began 22 years ago when I joined The Garden Club of Danville. I quickly realized that I had become part of something that was meaningful and impactful. I was immediately inspired.

As I begin my term, I remain committed to the continued implementation of the *Strategic Plan 2022 The Path Forward*. Over the last two years, great strides were made with implementation, but there is more work to be done. The Board of Directors will also continue to reflect on the GCV's mission to guide our work over the next two years including engaging our members in workshops and events that will fill the calendar.

The GCV kicked off the summer in June with a very busy month. Horticulture Field Day, Presidents Day, Boot Camp, and Lilies in Bloom: *Dazzle!* were all incredible successes. Horticulture Field Day offered an inside look at the beautiful gardens in Leesburg with a lecture by Peggy Singlemann as its grand finale. New friendships were made as members connected while discussing incredible garden design with the homeowners. Presidents Day was a time for our member club presidents to collaborate and discover more information about the GCV. HGW Boot Camp focused its attention on our tour chairmen with informative presentations and collaborative discussions. Lilies in Bloom: *Dazzle!* offered spectacular horticultural stems, artistic designs, and photographs to delight the eye. It was another great success.

In looking forward, Cultivating Conversations will return in September with a new day and time. Board of Governors will be hosted in October by the Harborfront Garden Club in Norfolk, and the Conservation Forum will be held in Martinsville in November. Be sure to watch for the details in the upcoming editions of the *Membership News*.

The GCV is brimming with talent for which I am profoundly grateful. I look forward to traveling across the state visiting clubs and meeting the incredible members of the GCV making this such an extraordinary organization.

*Kris Carbone*

Kris Carbone  
GCV President, 2024–2026



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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

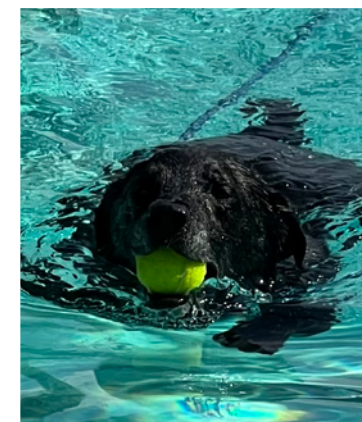
## DOG DAYS OF SUMMER



Thanks to the hot and sticky dog days of August, my garden is looking pitiful and tired. Speaking of dogs, Blue, my Catahoula, dashes out for two seconds at a time, and then begs to come in. He's definitely not fond of the unrelenting heat. On a positive note, I enjoyed evenings spent watching the Paris Olympics, and my trip to Oxford in July to study the gardens of Gertrude Jekyll was absolute perfection.

But with temps that soared into triple digits, finding inspiration and motivation was a challenge. Yet despite the slow pace that accompanies late summer, we've been busy beavers at the *Journal* and have managed to pack this issue with news galore. We introduce you to the GCV's 53rd president, Kris Carbone, who hails from Danville, where she's been a 22-year member of The Garden Club of Danville. You'll find our conversation with her most enlightening. We present two finalists for Common Wealth Award so that you'll be prepared to cast your vote at your clubs' September meetings. Karen Ellsworth, the director of Historic Garden Week, writes about the power of volunteerism and its profound effect on HGW—quite simply, there would be no Historic Garden Week without those countless volunteer hours through the decades. We share highlights of GCV's Annual Meeting in Charlottesville, hosted by the Rivanna Garden Club, as well as the much-anticipated awards that were announced during the festivities in May—the deLacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation, the Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award for Conservation, and the Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement. And as always, we fill Fresh Produce with news you can use.

I encourage you to indulge yourself for a moment and slow down: pour yourself a glass of iced tea, find a comfy perch, and enjoy this issue of the *Journal*. As always, we welcome your input and suggestions.



Blue cooling off in the dog days of summer.

Happy reading!

*Madeline Mayhood*

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





AWARD  
NOMINATIONS  
DEADLINES

**NOVEMBER 1, 2024**

**Bessie Bocock Carter  
Conservation Award**

**DECEMBER 1, 2024**

**Massie Medal  
for Distinguished  
Achievement**

**MARCH 1, 2025**

**Common Wealth Award**

**de Lacy Gray Memorial  
Medal for Conservation**

**Horticulture Award  
of Merit**

**JUNE 1, 2025**

**Conservation  
Educator Award**

**Dugdale Award for  
Meritorious Achievement  
in Conservation**

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

Visit the GCV website for award  
descriptions, nomination details and  
forms, past recipients, and additional  
award information. [GCVirginia.org](http://GCVirginia.org)

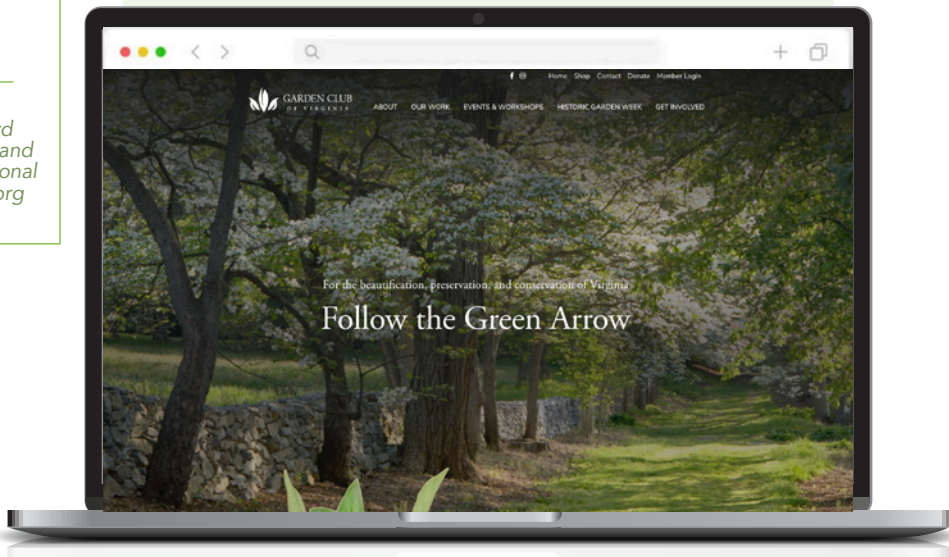
GCV Website's New Look

After more than a year of research, planning, and production, the Garden Club of Virginia has proudly released a new and updated website at [GCVirginia.org](http://GCVirginia.org). The prior website, first launched in 2005 under the visionary leadership of former GCV President Nina Mustard, served as an significant leap forward in GCV's digital presence, a catalyst for connecting member clubs with one another, and keeping the world informed of all the incredible work of the GCV and its member clubs.

Over the years, our vibrant organization has grown and demand for the frequency and style of digital programming has changed. According to a 2023 member survey, 95% of our members are interested in some type of virtual programming, two-thirds of members reported that they would be more likely to attend events that included a virtual option, and members shared a desire to make use of the website for educational resources, event information, and connecting with one another.

Now more oriented around individual users, the new platform allows members to customize their personal profiles, more easily register and find event and educational information, and reach and connect with one another. We are continuously working to update and improve the site now that it has launched. To ensure it remains a useful and enjoyable tool, we encourage members to share their feedback and experiences.

Thank you for your support and active participation throughout this process. We hope this new website renews your pride and enthusiasm as a member of the Garden Club of Virginia. 🌿



LILIES IN BLOOM:  
*dazzle!*



The 2024 Garden Club of Virginia lily show, Lilies in Bloom: Dazzle!, was held June 17-18 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Richmond, showcasing exhibits in Horticulture, Artistic Design, and Photography.

The featured speaker, Mary Zocchi, of Texas, former president of the North American Lily Society and non-resident member Dolley Madison Garden Club, presented "For the Love of Lilies" before the show, which was well attended by lily enthusiast members and the public.

GCV Horticulture and Lily Committee members, additional GCV members, and church staff worked tirelessly to make the show a beautiful and enjoyable success. Due to warming weather conditions, the number of stems exhibited was lower than in preceding years. However, the still numerous entries were of high quality, resulting in most of the major awards being given in all divisions at the Awards Ceremony.

Look for all awards to be posted on the GCV website. Several novice exhibitors won ribbons and major awards, including:

- **Kay Tyler**, The Boxwood Garden Club: The Blue Ridge Garden Cup (Best grown stem, Novice) and the Gertrude Cody Minter Memorial Award (Best Lily Stem in Show)
- **Margaret Hillyard**, Winchester-Clarke Garden Club: The Eugenia Diller Award (Best Oriental/Trumpet Hybrid Lily)
- **Gail Collins**, The Spotswood Garden Club: Georgia Vance Award (Best Novice Arrangement)
- **Susan Morris**, The Martinsville Garden Club: Novice Award Photography

*The 2025 GCV Lily Show will be hosted by The Garden Club of Northern Neck who are planning for more lily love!*

🌿 —Patsy Smith



Kay Tyler with Debbie Lewis.  
Photos courtesy Susan Lendermon





# Darling Daffodils

## Plant Bulbs Now!

Bulbs are little balls of flower power. They make us wait for months for their debut, but once spring arrives, they make all that work and waiting worth it.

Fall is right around the corner—prime bulb-planting season for a spring show. It's time to peruse all those bulb catalogs—Brent & Becky's is a Virginia favorite, and a visit to their Gloucester operation makes a great day trip, where you can scoop up blubs of all kinds and shop for garden treasures. Tulips, hyacinth, crocus, camassia, and of course the commonwealth's signature spring beauty, the daffodil, are prime bulbs to plant to guarantee you have a colorful spring. [BrentandBeckysBulbs.com](https://www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com)



## GREEN ARROW SOCIETY

The GCV's Green Arrow Society encompasses loyal members and friends who support the GCV's future with planned gifts. Much like the iconic green arrows that point the way along Historic Garden Week tour routes, members of the Green Arrow Society help point the way to a bright and sustainable future for the GCV. We are grateful to the members for their support.

Anonymous  
Kathryn Angus  
Margaret Bemiss+  
Barbara Backus  
Anne Beals  
Gail Braxton  
Peggy Talman Brockenbrough  
Missy Buckingham  
Sally Guy Brown  
Deedy Bumgardner  
Beverly and Wirt Christian, Jr.+  
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Susan B. Wight  
Mina W. Wood

+ deceased

For information on the Green Arrow Society, contact  
Andrea Butler, GCV Executive Director at [AButler@GCVirginia.org](mailto:AButler@GCVirginia.org)

# FOCUS: Birch

(*Betula spp.*)

**History**  
Many species of birch are common in landscapes. These include species of European and Asian origin such as the European white birch (*B. pendula*) and Himalayan birch (*B. utilis*), as well as the native river birch (*B. nigra*) and paper birch (*B. papyrifera*). The bark of birch trees is distinct, often with large, horizontal lenticels, and in some species, it can be separated into papery sheets. The bark of some species of birch contains methyl salicylate, which gives it a distinctive mint-like or wintergreen odor.



Photo by Peng Chen from UnSplash.

- Culture**
- All species are fairly shallow rooted and perform best in acidic organic soils.
  - Moderate to high water-use trees; most tolerate limited periods of soil saturation, but are not well adapted to drought stress.
  - Sensitive to certain micronutrient deficiencies that may result in abnormal leaf color and growth.
- Concerns**
- The bronze birch borer is a common, lethal pest of some species of birch, causing top dieback and eventual mortality.
  - Aphids, birch leaf miner, and Japanese beetles are pests of birch foliage.
  - Micronutrient deficiencies are common.



Photo from Pixabay.

- Bartlett Management Practices**
- Mulch to moderate soil temperature and conserve soil moisture.
  - Cabling to reduce the likelihood of branches breaking owing to snow and ice.
  - Apply systemic treatments for insect pests.
  - Provide proper soil nutrition based on soil analysis.
  - Root invigoration where appropriate to improve vigor. 🌱

—The pros at Bartlett Tree Experts, [Bartlett.com](https://www.bartletttree.com)

Photo by Emily Yates



## BOOK NOOK

### Armchair reading at the KVH

Next time you're at the Kent-Valentine House, be sure to visit the new Book Nook in the third floor alcove. Settle into an armchair by the fireplace and enjoy a volume from the curated collection, including horticulture, perennials, herbs, and floral design. And, of course, the second-floor library, now doubling as the office of Executive Director Andrea Butler, is always open for you to enjoy the rest of the KVH tomes—on landscape architecture, trees, historic properties, conservation—just to name a few. 🌱



# Two Projects Vie for the prestigious GCV Common Wealth Award.

*The Common Wealth Award was established in 1979 to provide an annual grant to promote projects in the interest of conservation, beautification, horticulture, preservation and education. The two word name Common Wealth was chosen to describe the “wealth” that is “common” to all Virginians.*

The following are the 2024 Common Wealth Award Nominees. Member clubs will vote on these projects at their September meeting, and the recipient will be announced at the Board of Governors meeting in October.

- The Garden Study Club and The Martinsville Garden Club:**  
The Nature Garden Along the Smith River Paw Path at the Smith River Sports Complex

**The James River Garden Club:**  
Conservation Landscaping at the James A. Buzzard River Education Center: Mitigating the Impact of Climate Change



1

**The Garden Study Club and The Martinsville Garden Club:**  
The Nature Garden Along the Smith River Paw Path at the Smith River Sports Complex, Martinsville

In 2015, The Martinsville Garden Club and The Garden Study Club developed the Paw Path conservation project, a trail for pollinator plants along the Smith River and within the Smith River Sports Complex in Martinsville/Henry County.

The Paw Path has been extremely successful with over 30,000 visitors annually, including becoming a destination for numerous student field trips. In order to enhance and expand the Paw Path and continue the two clubs’ goals of conservation, preservation, and education for locals and visitors, a Nature Garden will be established along the Paw Path. The garden will convert an unsightly space full of invasive species into an array of native pollinator plants.

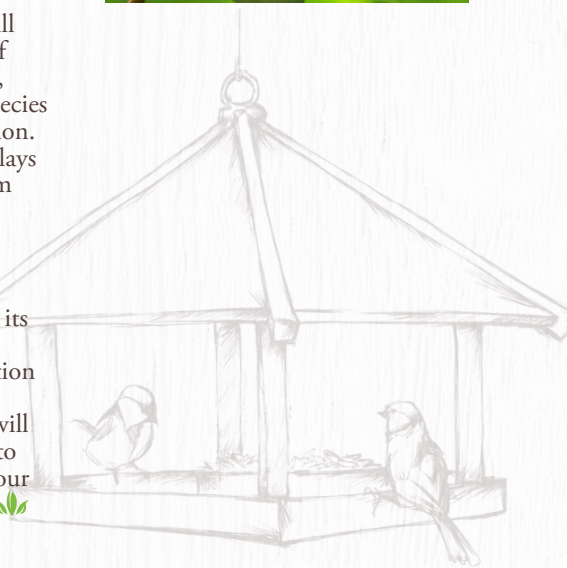
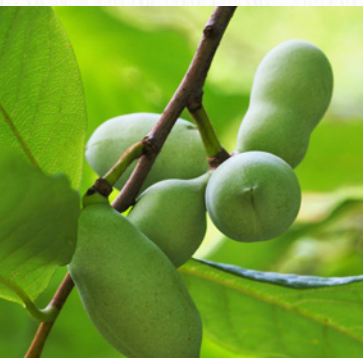
As part of implementing the Nature Garden, native plants such as Virginia bluebell, wild ginger, and crane fly orchid will be identified, protected, and transplanted if needed. Creating a beautiful and serene setting for respite, renewal, and learning, this project will be a living lab and open-air classroom, where people of all age can become educated about the importance of native pollinators, both in nature and in their own gardens. Funds from the Common Wealth Award will be used for site preparation and plant cost for the Nature Garden.

2

**The James River Garden Club:**  
Conservation Landscaping at the James A. Buzzard River Education Center at the Low Line: Mitigating the Impact of Climate Change, Richmond

As the earth continues to warm, new ways to mitigate the effects of climate change are needed. To this end, the James River Association’s new River Education Center, located on the James River in Richmond’s East End, seeks to serve as a model for the community for its commitment to conservation design and energy, environmental and community resilience. It will serve as a hub for environmental education. Programs will highlight the importance of clean water, renewable energy, preservation of green spaces, and the utilization of native plants to mitigate the impacts of climate change while supporting biodiversity – all for the benefit of a thriving community.

The Common Wealth Award will fund the conservation landscaping at the River Education Center, which will feature 21,000 square feet of regionally native tree, shrub, perennial, grass, and vine species adapted to thrive in our region. Conservation landscaping plays a key role in managing storm water runoff, mitigating the urban heat island effect, improving air quality, and creating habitat for native wildlife species. As befitting its conservation and education focus, the new River Education Center is an extension of Richmond’s Low Line and will continue to draw visitors into exploring and appreciating our magnificent natural world.





# Celebrating in Charlottesville!

Nearly 150 GCV club presidents, delegates, Board members, committee chairmen, and former GCV presidents attended the Garden Club of Virginia's 104th Annual Meeting, hosted by the Rivanna Garden Club, from May 21–23, 2024. The meeting took place in Charlottesville at the C.O.D.E. Building, a LEED-certified green building.

Rivanna Garden Club President Mary Howard set the tone by citing Thomas Jefferson's philosophy that nothing is as important as the pursuit of gardening. ML Coolidge and Jennifer Smith were the co-chairmen of this event, and club members were on hand in



All annual meeting photos courtesy of Rivanna Garden Club

full force to provide gracious hospitality to attendees. An optional outing included a trip to the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont, and the Awards Banquet was held at the beautiful Farmington Country Club.



Special guests included Gordon Chappell, FASLA, who was named a new honorary member of the GCV, accompanied by his wife Sherrie, a member of The Williamsburg Garden Club. Gordon, retired director of landscape and facilities for the



Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, has served on the Restoration Fellowship Committee for several years, and was cited for providing invaluable guidance to the Restoration Landscape Architect Search Committee.



That search was very fruitful and Jean Gilpin, Restoration Committee chairman 2021–2024, had the honor of introducing GCV's new landscape architect: Nelson Byrd Woltz. NBW Principal Thomas Woltz gave a big picture overview of his firm's work



and vision for the GCV, and Project Manager and Cultural Landscape Historian Jenny Lauer gave a sneak preview of the newest restoration project: a garden renovation at GCV's Kent-Valentine House.

The meeting concluded with the passing of the gavel from Debbie Lewis to Kris Carbone, who had organized a skit to the tune of "Gilligan's Isle" as a tribute to Debbie.

- 1 Thomas Woltz, on behalf of Nelson Byrd Woltz, reviewed his firm's vision as the GCV's new landscape architect.
- 2 Annual Meeting participants enjoyed tours of the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont.
- 3 Restoration Committee Chairman Jean Gilpin reviewed the committee's 2023–2024 accomplishments.
- 4 GCV Executive Director Andrea Butler.
- 5 KVH Chairman Julie Grover presented Kent-Valentine House highlights, which included updates and renovations.
- 6 and 7 Horticulture specimens on display at the CODE building in downtown Charlottesville, one of the Annual Meeting venues.
- 8 Kelly Johnson, chairman of the Development Committee, presented committee highlights.
- 9 Clarkie Eppes from Hillside Garden Club, Chairman of Annual and Board of Governors Meetings.





10



11

Photos courtesy of Nelson Byrd Woltz



12



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15



14

10 Nostalgia in Bloom: A Celebration of the Lilac was produced by annual meeting host club Rivanna Garden Club and is available from their website: [TheRivannaGardenClub.org](http://TheRivannaGardenClub.org)

11 Horticulture specimens on display at the CODE building in downtown Charlottesville, one of the Annual Meeting venues.

12 BGP Executive Director Jill Trischman-Marks reviews plans for the garden that will include a pavilion, a visitor center, and many individual gardens.

13 Delicious amuse bouche from the Dutch treat dinner in Charlottesville.

14 Peggy Cornett, X, and Mary Howard, RGC president.

15 Debbie Lewis Roast courtesy of the Board of Directors

16 Alison Conte, president of Roanoke Valley Garden Club, and Mary Howard, president of Rivanna Garden Club, at the Annual Meeting Banquet at Farmington Country Club.

17 Debbie Lewis, immediate past GCV president, with Gordon Chappell, GCV's newest honorary member.



16



17



# GCV Presents Treasured Medal to Dianne Nea Spence

Dianne Nea Spence of The Williamsburg Garden Club and The Garden Club of Gloucester and Mathews is the recipient of 2024 Massie Medal Award for Distinguished Achievement. The inscription on her medal reads:



Reveley Garden groundbreaking, June 2018; L-R: Anne Baldwin, Jean Gilpin, Dianne Spence, Helen Reveley, Taylor Reveley, W&M Chancellor Robert M. Gates, Nina Mustard, W&M board member Sue Gerdelman, John Gerdelman, Williamsburg Mayor Paul Freiling (2016-2020). Photo by Skip Rowland.



*"In gratitude for her visionary leadership, unwavering dedication, and her gift of mentorship."*

Dianne is a third-generation active member of The Garden Club of Williamsburg and a non-resident member of the Garden Club of Gloucester and Mathews. She grew up planting and arranging flowers with her mother and grandmother, who were delighted when she accepted an invitation to become a member of the garden club. She quickly launched into volunteering in her club and became noticed for her attention to detail, her horticulture and flower arranging skills, and for encouraging others to participate in GCV activities.

She has contributed to the GCV by serving in demanding and influential positions. Her leadership of the Outlook Committee in 2008-2010 is credited with launching the GCV into the 21st century. The Outlook Committee saw

that GCV financial accounts were remodeled, standing committees were restructured, the Board of Governors and Annual Meeting schedules were streamlined, and that development and marketing the GCV became priorities.

Other important roles have included serving on the Board of Directors as treasurer and as chair of the Finance, Horticulture, Nominations, and Restoration committees. She served as Director at Large for District 3 in 2010-2012. As Restoration Chair, she helped spearhead the Reveley Garden Restoration at William & Mary. In her own club, she has served in many offices, arranged flowers for countless HGW tours, and, in 2024, she celebrates 50 years of membership.

Dianne is renowned as a grower of blue-ribbon daffodils and is an Accredited American Daffodil Society judge. In her beloved Williamsburg,

she has served on numerous city beautification commissions and chaired the Williamsburg Area Council of Garden Clubs' Arbor Day. She is active with the Hospice House of Williamsburg, having chaired the Board of Directors in the past.

Through all these accomplishments, Dianne has served with joy, modesty, and enthusiasm, exemplifying a true servant-leader. Beginning at her grandmother's side, Dianne has spent a lifetime of GCV membership, assuming responsibilities great and small, providing insight, and leading by example. Her dedicated and distinguished service is deeply appreciated and an inspiration to all.

— Candy Crosby



# Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award Presented to the Gabriella Garden Club

At the Annual Meeting this June in Charlottesville, the winner of the Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award was announced. After careful deliberation by the committee and subsequent voting from GCV member clubs, the award was presented to the Gabriella Garden Club for their outstanding project, *Preserving Downtown Danville's Urban Oasis: the HOME Pocket Park Transformation*.

From the ashes of an abandoned motel, the Gabriella Garden Club has envisioned a vibrant community space that will serve as a haven for both people and wildlife. Through their collaborative efforts with the city of Danville, they are dedicated to transforming the HOME Pocket Park into a lush, inviting green space and are protecting a valuable urban oasis to be cherished for generations to come. The project celebrates the power of community-driven conservation efforts. The project will also make a lasting impact on the city of Danville.

The Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award will provide essential funding to support the completion of the project, including the planting of native flora, erosion control measures, and the installation of vital infrastructure to ensure the park's sustainability. 🌿  
—Sarah Hellewell



L-R: X and Y, accepting the Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award on behalf of Gabriella Garden Club, with Debbie Lewis and Conservation Awards Chairman Sarah Hellewell.



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

# De Lacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation

Lisa Mountcastle is recognized for outstanding efforts in furthering the knowledge of our natural resources and promoting their wise use.

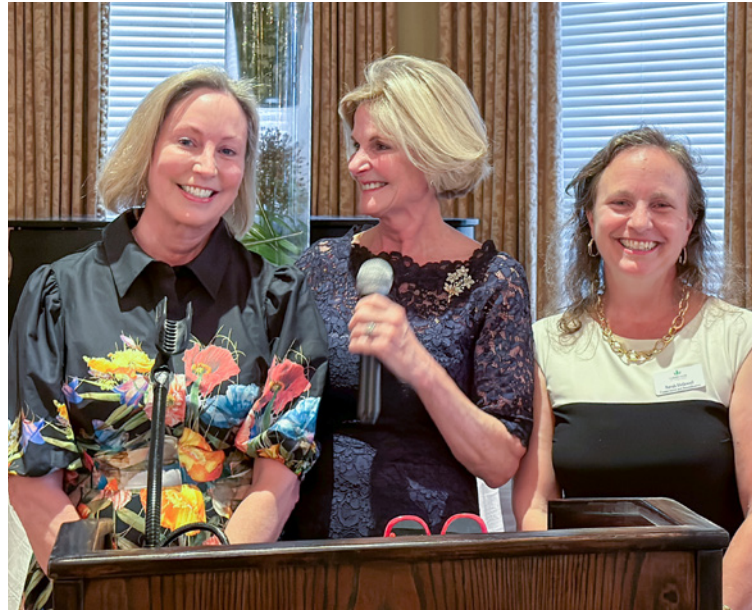
Established in 1965 in memory of de Lacy Thompson Gray, this prestigious award honors an individual whose unwavering dedication to conservation has left an indelible mark on the landscape of the Commonwealth of Virginia by recognizing outstanding efforts in furthering the knowledge of our natural resources and promoting their wise use. This year it was presented to Lisa Mountcastle.

Lisa's lifelong commitment to conservation embodies the spirit of this award in every sense.

For over two decades, Lisa has been a steadfast pillar within the Garden Club of Alexandria. As the leader of the Conservation Interest Team, she pioneered numerous local initiatives in Northern Virginia—from advocating for the use of native plants along the Potomac River waterfront to spearheading efforts to eliminate plastic straw usage in Alexandria restaurants. Her dedication to local conservation efforts has not only made a tangible impact on the community but has also served as a shining example of effective grassroots activism.

Beyond her local endeavors, Lisa has played a pivotal role in statewide conservation initiatives. In her leadership roles with Scenic Virginia, where she served as former president and currently chairs the board of trustees, she has been instrumental in the organization's determined efforts to preserve the commonwealth's scenic beauty. Visionary initiatives like the Virginia Viewshed Project have empowered communities to

*Her dedication to local conservation efforts has not only made a tangible impact on the community but has also served as a shining example of effective grassroots activism.*



L-R: Lisa Mountcastle accepting the deLacy Gray Medal for Conservation, with Debbie Lewis and Conservation Awards Chairman Sarah Hellewell.

preserve their most valued views and landscapes for future generations.

Lisa's dedication extends beyond conservation organizations to historic preservation efforts as well. Her involvement with the Menokin Foundation, where she serves as vice president, underscores her commitment to preserving America's heritage and making it accessible to the public. Her recent role as vice president of the Essex County Conservation Alliance highlights her ongoing dedication to promoting

and protecting the rural character of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Lisa Mountcastle has demonstrated exemplary leadership, collaboration, mentorship, and innovation—the very qualities honored by the De Lacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation.

Congratulations to both of our winners! 🌿 —Sarah Hellewell





GARDEN CLUB  
OF VIRGINIA

# Daffodil Day

VIRGINIA BEACH 2024

VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY



A crop of blue ribbon winners from 2024 Daffodil Day.

*GCV ushered in spring with a spectacular show in Virginia Beach.*

The Garden Club of Virginia celebrated the arrival of spring with Daffodil Day 2024, held on the campus of Virginia Wesleyan University in Virginia Beach on March 27. The show was brilliant, colorful, and teeming with specimens and arrangements and smiling attendees admiring the breadth and depth of the classes and submissions. Daffodil Day Chairman Debbie Bonnewell secured the use of a large part of the school's indoor athletic facilities—a perfect venue that made a comfortable and convenient location for the daffodil show.

The show was a giant success on so many levels. Members from several local GCV clubs volunteered in various capacities that made light work for everyone involved. The Horticulture Committee ensured that the workroom was functional and fun, with tables of specimens that were both overflowing but manageable. The showroom floor was a site to behold, with 85 registered exhibitors and 2,015 stems on display.

Daffodil Day goals span the gamut. **Education** is key, and seeing many novices entering their first classes, shepherded by experienced members, is rewarding. And watching the expressions on the faces of VWU students examining the variety of blooms, many of whom were being introduced to a flower show for the first time, was exceptionally gratifying. The GCV's commitment to showcasing **horticulture** was realized with the sheer variety of daffodil specimens on display and plant material in the arrangements. The show was open to the public and witnessing their delight once judging was completed underscored the importance of **community**. In addition, the number of spectators who enjoyed the show was another important aspect. After the show closed, VWU students were encouraged to take bouquets and posies back to their dorms. All in all, 2024 Daffodil Day was a win-win.

—Nancy McLaughlin

## The new Glenna Graves Award

A new award was created to honor Glenna Graves, a member of the Spotswood Garden Club for nearly five decades, who served as GCV's Daffodil Chairman for many years and was the 2018 recipient of the Massie Medal. Glenna helped develop what would become known as Daffodil Day and helped organize daffodil shows across the country. She served as president of the Washington Daffodil Society and was on the executive board of the American Daffodil Society. Her love and knowledge of daffodils is contagious, and her generous mentoring has touched everyone. The Glenna Graves Award is designated for GCV novice daffodil exhibitors. This year's recipient was Marcia McGrath from The Spotswood Garden Club.

*Glenna Graves with her eponymously named award for novice daffodil exhibitors.*



Daffodil Day 2024 from on high—an impressive site.



# Meet Kris Carbone

A Q&A WITH GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA'S 53RD PRESIDENT

*This Garden Club of Danville member began her term as GCV's 53rd president in May, when Debbie Lewis passed the gavel at the Annual Meeting in Charlottesville. Read all about Kris Carbone, her goals as president, and why garden clubs matter.*

**Journal:** Give us a little background info on Kris Carbone...

**KC:** I was born and raised in the suburbs of St. Louis. I grew up visiting the Missouri Botanical Garden, known as Shaw's Gardens by locals back then, which is where I found my love of horticulture. I earned a master's degree in nursing and

worked as a clinical research nurse at Washington University. I met my husband Joe in St. Louis, and after he finished his surgical residency, we moved to Los Angeles for a year for Joe's surgical fellowship. We then moved to Danville in July of 2000 and have lived there ever since. We have one son who just graduated from high school. He leaves for college in August.

**Journal:** What positions have you held in your club and in the GCV?

**KC:** I've been in the Garden Club of Danville for 22 years. In my club, I've been fundraising co-chair, program chairman, membership chair, member-at-large, constitution and parliamentarian, recording secretary, vice president, and president. For the GCV, I've been membership committee chair, the DAL for District 4, recording secretary, Centennial steering chairman, strategic planning chairman, 2nd vice president, and now, president. I've also served on various committees based on my different positions including HGW, Restoration, Development, and Finance.

**Journal:** What do you consider the greatest value of membership in a garden club?

**KC:** The greatest value of membership is the camaraderie and friendships, followed by the knowledge gained about artistic design, horticulture, and conservation. My favorite day is when we gather to arrange for Historic Garden Week.

**Journal:** What makes being in a GCV club special and unique?

**KC:** Being part of a GCV club is inspiring because of the impact that we make in our communities and across the

state. The GCV gives members the opportunities to connect with talented, smart, and inspiring individuals.

**Journal:** What do you consider the most important aspects of the GCV's mission?

**KC:** When I became a member, I was so proud to say that I was a part of an organization that restored and preserved historic landscapes of the commonwealth. I think we need to be ever vigilant in conserving the gifts of nature or they will disappear. I realize how important it is to cultivate the love of gardening, but we have to lead future generations to build on this heritage, so that everything we have worked for is not lost.

**Journal:** As the new GCV president, how do you intend to advance that mission?

**KC:** It is my honor to support and guide the GCV committees who do an incredible job advancing the mission of the GCV every day. Listening to



new ideas from our members is critical to meet our members' needs. It is important to me to engage with our current members to inspire them to serve at the GCV level. For those members already serving at the GCV level, mentoring and developing their leadership skills is crucial. Determining

how to connect and communicate our relevancy with our younger generations is critical to inspiring them to consider membership.

**Journal:** What do you, specifically, bring to the position of GCV president?

**KC:** When I reflect on my skill set, I believe I have a sense of organization and process. I love to feel a sense of efficiency in our work and am striving to improve our efficiency with role development and technological support. I also am keenly aware of the need to mentor our committee members to develop future leadership.

**Journal:** What are your particular interests and passions?

**KC:** I love horticulture, and I love learning about the science behind thriving plants. Beauty in the garden is so inspiring.

**Journal:** What do you like to do beyond garden clubs and GCV?

**KC:** I love to garden. I love to be at the beach. I love to cheer my son on in his interests. 🌿



Kris Carbone with GCV friend and fantastic floral designer David Pippin arranging fresh flowers at a GCV workshop. The event was hosted by Foxie Morgan at her farm in Tyro—Pharsalia in the Blue Ridge Mountains.



Historic Garden Week, Virginia's Oldest Volunteer Project Supporting Tourism

# A TOURIST'S MECCA

BY KAREN ELLSWORTH, DIRECTOR OF HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK



L-R: Samantha Bishop from The Hampton Roads Garden Club and Hampton-Newport News tour chair with fellow HRGC member, official greeter, and ticket taker Jennifer Dick. This year the tour showcased Poquoson.

All 2024 HGW photos courtesy of Garden Club of Virginia.



Sir Peter Crane with former GCV president Debbie Lewis and her husband Ben at the stables at Oak Spring, the home of Bunny and Paul Mellon in Upperville.

GARDEN CLUB  
OF VIRGINIA  
*Historic  
Garden Week*  
APRIL 20-27, 2024

## BY THE NUMBERS

- Record breaking \$824,531 in net proceeds
- 24,112 visitors attended 29 tours across the state
- Visitors from 43 states and 16 countries
- 48 member clubs comprised of over 3,400 GCV members



*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*—MARGARET MEAD

Volunteering is associated with improved health and well-being, increased longevity, and reduced stress. In addition, it provides important benefits to the neighborhoods in which volunteers live and serve. Volunteerism contributes to the economy, builds safer and stronger communities, and promotes civic engagement.

As the oldest volunteer effort in the state that supports tourism, Historic Garden Week (HGW) requires hundreds of individuals to organize it and provide hospitality. "I love working on Historic Garden Week. It's one of my favorite times of the year," says Kris Carbone, GCV's president. "Whether it's arranging with my local club or traveling across the state, I can have fun with fellow GCV members while helping a cause I love," she explains. "I want to do more than just provide financial support. I want to be involved."

When the last economic impact study of GCV's signature fundraiser was completed, it was estimated that GCV members donated

nearly 77,000 hours to the planning and production of Historic Garden Week. It is not an exaggeration, therefore, when Tom Christopher, author of numerous garden books, and a syndicated columnist describes Historic Garden Week in the following terms: "when volunteerism rises to the level of activism."



Decorating a porch in Virginia Beach for the '24 HGW tour.

Tour proceeds support GCV's effort to restore historic gardens throughout the state that are open to the public and fund a fellowship program in landscape architecture. From Ker Place on the Eastern Shore and Beale Garden at Hollins in Roanoke to the State Arboretum near Winchester and Bacon's Castle in Surry, millions of dollars have been raised to preserve the beauty of public gardens for future generations since the event's inaugural tours took place in 1929. This past spring, Historic Garden Week offered 29 distinct tours in localities across Virginia and was attended by 24,112 people. The event raised a record-breaking \$824,531 in net proceeds.

Margaret Mead, the cultural anthropologist, was quoted as saying, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." GCV members were early leaders in conservation and environmental concerns. While they probably couldn't have imagined social media as an advertising tool, or using the GCV website and



James River Garden Club member Lindsey Clark-Motley hosted members of the Garden Club of Indianapolis at a dinner at the Country Club of Virginia in Richmond during HGW 2024.





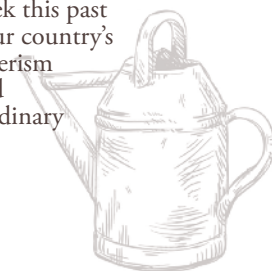
GARDEN CLUB  
OF VIRGINIA  
*Historic Garden Week*

*Guidebook* to peruse various tour options, or biking from featured property to property to enjoy a handful of HGW's urban offerings, the mission of this 104-year-old organization remains solidly the same. "Our members are committed to their communities and our state and show it by their dedication and hard work on Historic Garden Week," says Virginia Gillock, HGW chair 2024-2026, and a member of The Augusta Garden Club in Staunton. "Their pride and efforts result in cultural and economic benefits for communities across Virginia, while also enjoying the benefits of the camaraderie that is shared while working on a common goal together."

A federal study shows that the number of volunteers serving nonprofits in Virginia surpassed two million, so GCV members are in good company. Virginians volunteered more than 300 million hours last year, worth more than \$7.8 billion based on the Virginia Employment Commission's estimate of the average value of a volunteer hour. "Virginians have a strong desire to help their communities," says Kathy Spangler, director of Serve Virginia, the part of the Virginia Department of Social Services that tracks volunteerism. "Historic Garden Week is an extraordinary example of what is possible when

like-minded people come together to further a worthwhile cause."

"Our volunteers are our most precious resource," says Gillock. "None of this impressive work would be possible without their dedication, their time, and their tremendous talent." It is not surprising that Historic Garden Week coincided with National Volunteer Week this past April, when our country's call to volunteerism was recognized for the extraordinary gift it is to our state. 🌱



Fran Carden, HGW State Chairman, 2022-2024 and new HGW State Chairman Virginia Gillock.



Debbie and Ben Lewis with Rennie McDaniel from the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club at the Fredericksburg tour with friends.



A stunning tablescape set for royalty, thanks to the talented members of the Garden Club of Norfolk.



Waterperry Farm, in Free Union and on the Albemarle tour, includes a private botanical garden and offers exclusive stays and luxurious accommodations.



Fran Carden, HGW State Chairman, 2022-2024, with Ben and Debbie Lewis.



Dynamic flower arranging duo Ruthie and Nancy Newton from The Garden Club of Norfolk with their collaborative design featuring bellebores, roses, curly willow, poets laurel, lilacs, and tulips.



Lynda Odom, Nansemond River Garden Club, and Donna Moulton, Fairfax Garden Club at Ballantraine Farm in McLean.



Pros from Bartlett Tree Experts, longtime GCV partner, dispensing valuable advice on the Staunton Tour.



Ben and Debbie Lewis with friends on the Old Town Alexandria tour.





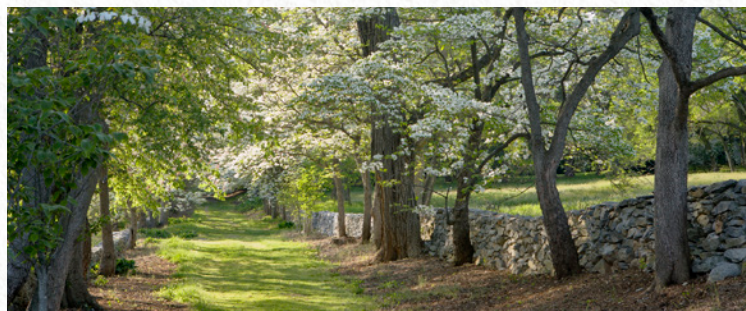
## GRETA MATTHEIS & MARLENA HAMILTON SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES BEING FELLOWS

The Garden Club of Virginia offers fellowship programs to undergraduate and graduate students so that they can build on their experiences through hands-on guidance from professionals working in their respective fields of interest.

The GCV Conservation and Environmental Studies Fellowship supports research in conservation and environmental studies that directly impacts the Commonwealth of Virginia. Topics may include flora, fauna, or community practices. There is a conservation fellowship available at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

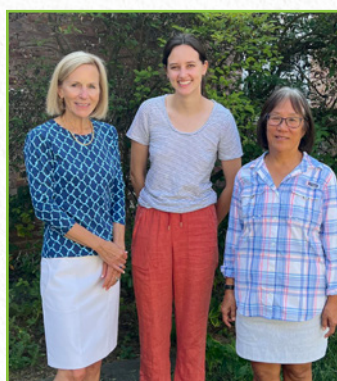
Students who study landscape architecture may benefit from our Landscape Restoration Research Fellowship, designed for graduate students working towards a master's in landscape architecture (MLA) or equivalent degree. Research sites are selected by the Fellowships Committee, a sub-committee of the GCV Restoration Committee.

GCV's 2023 fellows presented their work and findings at the 2024 Annual Meeting in Charlottesville. Read on for summaries of their projects and the impact of the experience.



## A Study of the State Arboretum Trails

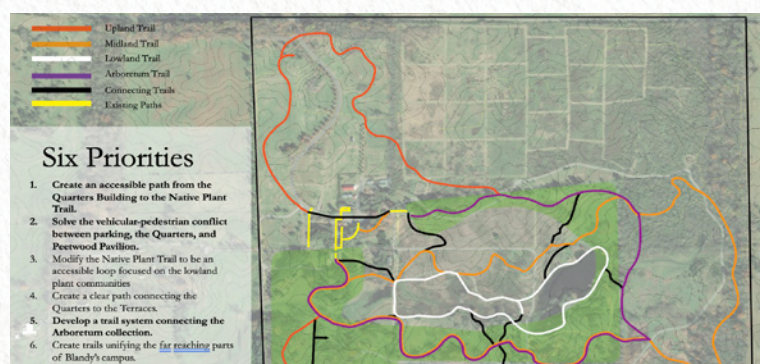
Over the past year, I conducted a study of the trails at the State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy Experimental Farm, a multi-functional landscape located in the Shenandoah Valley. The goal of this project was to examine Blandy as a whole and provide insights into the function and accessibility of its existing trail system. By offering solutions to improving the site's accessibility, the project suggests a future for Blandy where it can reach its full potential as a space for visitors, education, and research. Blandy, though already a landscape that is loved by many, has the potential to reach an even greater audience and demonstrate all it has to offer. Accessibility and connectivity seem to be the new frontier for Blandy, allowing the site to become more holistic and expand its visitor capacity.



L-R: Immediate Past Restoration Committee chairman Jean Gilpin, Greta Mattheis, and Nancy Takahashi, Assoc. Professor Emerita in Landscape Architecture, UVA, and fellowship advisor.

With the help of my team of advisors, we were able to understand and give name both to what Blandy's landscape has to offer and also to the ways in which it can still be improved. The study resulted in a list of six recommendations that can be used to guide future improvements to the landscape, uplifting the goals of accessibility, and the visitor experience. As a young landscape architect beginning my career, this project has played a tremendous role in my understanding of the landscape, especially as it has encouraged me to see the landscape holistically and understand the power of having a clear vision and holding together the many facets of a design. It has been a pleasure to work on this project, and I am left with nothing but excitement for the future of Blandy.

—Greta Mattheis, graduate student in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Virginia, Restoration Fellow 2023



Marlena Hamilton, below



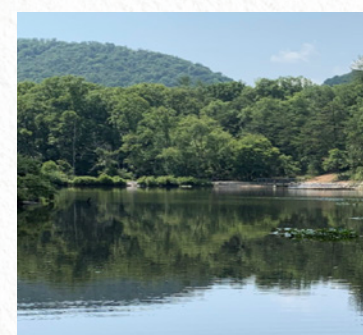
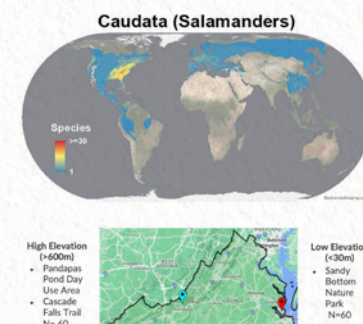
My study focused on potential climate impacts on red-backed salamanders, a small but abundant amphibian in Virginia. Many previous studies on these animals have focused on population differences over time and/or latitude and how those differences may inform the

species response to climate change, but very few have studied population differences across elevation. Given low elevations tend to experience warmer annual temperatures than high elevations, I wanted to determine if one population would be better equipped to handle upcoming climate warming than another. I collected salamanders from low and high elevation populations in Virginia to determine how traits critical to climate change response differed across elevation. These traits included body size, temperature preference, surface activity, and burst speed performance. To determine differences between populations, salamanders were kept and tested at three different temperatures; one cool temperature, one warm temperature, and one hot temperature was chosen to simulate ideal conditions, climate warming, and extreme climate warming.

Salamanders from low elevations were significantly larger than those from high elevations, giving them the advantage of slower body temperature increase when on the surface. Preferred temperature was the same regardless of home elevation. However, surface activity as testing temperatures increased differed by elevation. Low elevation salamanders were significantly less likely to be active on the surface during warming scenarios than high elevation. Given these salamanders need to be active on the surface to forage, these findings suggest low elevation salamanders may be able to adjust to warm conditions in a way that limits their need to become surface active, while high elevation salamanders must continue to risk dangerously warm temperatures. Both populations were able to maintain burst speed despite temperature increases, suggesting their sprint (and therefore, ability to escape predators) should not be impacted by climate change if temperature does not exceed lethal limits. My findings suggest that high elevation salamanders may be at greater risk from climate warming, as they have smaller body sizes that warm up more quickly and do not have the capacity to limit time on the surface during dangerously warm temperatures. Without the support of the Garden Club of Virginia fellowship program my project would not have been possible. The fellowship helped me to have a successful graduate school experience, which has allowed me to advance my career with the City of Newport News Department of Parks and Recreation.

—Marlena Hamilton, Christopher Newport University, Conservation Fellow 2023

## Salamanders, Elevation, and Climate Change







## GCV's 33rd President

After a long and vibrant life, Katherine “Katty” Turner Mears died last year at age 92. She was a past president of the Garden Club of the Eastern Shore and served as the GCV's 33rd president, from 1984-1986.

*Read on for tributes to this force of nature.*

### TRIBUTE FROM:

**Sally Guy Lynch Brown,  
Garden Club of Alexandria,  
GCV President, 2006-2008**

I grew up in Richmond in a neighborhood that was home to three other Presidents of the GCV: Jane Murrell, Helen Murphy, and Katty Mears. I first met Katty when I was 2 years old. My parents had just built the house that I would grow up in on Paxton Road in Richmond. Up the hill and a couple of homes away was the Turner Family. They had two children, Katty and Helen, who were enrolled at the nearby St. Catherine's Episcopal School. Both were very smart and attractive young girls. Our parents became good friends and when it was time for me to go to school, my mother sent me to St. Catherine's hoping that I would turn out like the Turner girls. A year after we moved in, Katty graduated and was named June Scholar of her class. That really raised the bar for me!

The years went by. I graduated from St. Catherine's (not as June Scholar ... sorry mom!) and then went on to get a degree in art history in college. I worked at the Corcoran Gallery of Art and moved to Alexandria where I met my future husband, Tom Brown. We married and settled into our first house with our growing family. One day, Prue Montague and Hannah Cox came by and asked me to join The Garden Club of Alexandria. Of course my mother was so happy as Katty had by then married and moved to the

Eastern Shore with husband Benjamin Mears where she was active in the garden club there. I was asked to be a delegate at the annual meeting of the GCV and went to the meeting. And who was President of the GCV? Katty Mears! So we reconnected again and she was so instrumental in helping me get to work on several committees.

She was a great force on the Eastern Shore and had leading roles in the Barrier Island Center, the Eastern Shore Historical Society, and many more. She also helped instigate many Garden

### TRIBUTE FROM:

**Will Rieley, GCV Landscape Architect, 1998-2021**

We lost a great friend and fabulous person when Katty Mears died last October. Of course, she was an extremely knowledgeable and capable preservationist and gardener. As you all know, she was active in the civic, cultural, and religious life of her community on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and throughout the commonwealth. But those of us who were lucky enough to know and work with

*“An extremely knowledgeable and capable preservationist and gardener... those lucky enough to know and work with Katty remember her best for her indomitable spirit, her charm, kindness, and engaging sense of humor. She had a lively and insightful sparkle in her eyes.”*

Club of Virginia Restoration Projects with Will Rieley who was our landscape architect.

Katty wanted to make the world a better place. And she did. She was a member of the Green Arrow Society, and the Garden Club of Virginia received a lovely gift for the Endowment Fund from her estate. We shall all miss this great lady and friend.

Katty remember her best for her indomitable spirit, her charm, kindness, and engaging sense of humor. She had a lively and insightful sparkle in her eyes.

During my early years working with the Restoration Committee, I got a chance to chat with her tete a tete when we absented ourselves from the more virtuous participants to go outside for a smoke—she for a cigarette, me for a cigar. If I didn't have a cigar, even though I didn't smoke

cigarettes, I would sometimes borrow one from her and smoke, just to enjoy her company. She introduced me to her friends, like Kate Jacobs and Furlong Baldwin—she seemed to know everyone. We once had lunch on Cape Charles to discuss some pressing issue which I since have forgotten. What I didn't forget was the lunch took a long time because as everyone in the restaurant finished their meal, they all stopped by or table to pay their respect to Katty.

When I think back over the quarter of a century during which I have known Katty, I think I have seldom encountered anyone in whom candor and kindness were so perfectly balanced. I miss her profoundly.

### TRIBUTE FROM:

**Price Clarke, Katty's daughter:**

Katty did her first flower arrangement in the first grade at St. Catherine's and won a blue ribbon. And from there she was hooked! When her mother could come home from her Boxwood Garden Club (which

*“She was a great force on the Eastern Shore and had leading roles in the Barrier Island Center, the Eastern Shore Historical Society, and she also helped instigate many GCV Restoration Projects with Will Rieley, our landscape architect.”*

she helped found) meetings, the first thing Katty wanted to know was if her mother had won a ribbon for her arrangement.

Katty arranged flowers for the rest of her life ... literally to the very end. Within a month of her dying, she did a flower arrangement (she was the director, I was the placer) of sticks and corn. This was for the

table at the luncheon she was hosting after church; the menu was hot dogs—her favorite! She ALWAYS had a flower arrangement on her front hall table and taught her housekeeper how to cover for her when she was unable to do it.

Katty was always out the door first thing in the morning to see what was new in her garden. My sister Mariah would trail behind her as a toddler, and Katty would tell her the Latin names of all the plants, knowledge which Mariah still retains!! (I'm jealous!). As her mobility diminished, she was out the door in her golf cart checking on her “babies.”

As you know, Katty was so full of life and fun throughout her whole life ... even late in life with all her medical issues. One day she was at the doctor's office, and at that point her mobility was such that she needed walking sticks that looked like ski poles. As she crossed the waiting room heading to her appointment, she spied an elderly and very attractive gentleman. After passing him, she looked back over her shoulder and said, “My skis are in the car!” 🌿







*Coreopsis  
lanceolata*



GARDEN CLUB  
OF VIRGINIA

# Historic Garden Week

TOURS STATEWIDE

April 26-May 3, 2025

*Proceeds fund the restoration of Virginia's historic public gardens and a research fellowship program.*



For a complete listing of tours and to purchase tickets, please visit [VaGardenWeek.org](https://VaGardenWeek.org)

## SAVE THE DATES

### 2024

- September 20 | Cultivating Conversations—Flower Arranging Mechanics, 10 a.m.
- October 22-24 | Board of Governors, *Norfolk*
- November 7 | Conservation Forum, *Martinsville*

### 2025

- February 28-March 2 | *History Blooms* at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, *Richmond*
- March 25-26 | Daffodil Day, Virginia Wesleyan University, *Virginia Beach*
- April 26-May 3 | Historic Garden Week
- May 19-21 | GCV Annual Meeting, *Lynchburg*
- June 18 | *Lilies in Bloom*, hosted by the Garden Club of the Northern Neck

## 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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