



Coreopsis lanceolata

GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA

Historic Garden Week

FRANKLIN

Homes and Gardens Along Historic Clay Street

Saturday, April 26, 2025

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Hosted by:

Franklin, Elizabeth River, and Nansemond River
Garden Clubs

PROCEEDS FUND THE RESTORATION OF VIRGINIA PUBLIC
GARDENS AND A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

VAGARDENWEEK.ORG

POINTS OF INTEREST



Blackwater Park

1716 N High Street, Franklin

Winner of the Gold Governor's Environmental Excellence Award in 2023, this 200-acre park features an 800-foot boardwalk, two miles of trails, a pavilion, and a kiosk. The Franklin Garden Club sponsored the Ridge Trail.



Rawls Museum Arts

22376 Linden Street, Courtland

Founded in 1958, the center's mission is to promote, encourage, and develop interest in, knowledge of, appreciation for, and practice of the arts; to provide collective cultural enrichment for the people of the City of Franklin, and the counties of Southampton, Isle of Wight, Surry, and Sussex.

PLATINUM SPONSOR



SILVER/RESTORATION
SPONSOR



Jesse and Sandy
Canada

BRONZE/BEAUTIFICATION
SPONSOR



Tour Information

Chairs

Holly Gizzi | Sandra Wilson | Susan Lawrence

Co-Chairs

John Drewry | Mary Vaughan | Catherine Wass
portsmouthsuffolkfranklin@vagardenweek.org

Tickets: Advance-\$35 pp. at vagardenweek.org
Day of Tour-\$45 pp. at vagardenweek.org

Tour Headquarters:

High Street United Methodist Church, 31164
Camp Pkwy, Courtland, VA 23237.

Check in at headquarters: Wristbands are
required for access to each featured property and
will be provided to ticket holders at headquarters.
This includes tickets purchased in advance,
statewide passes, and tickets purchased on the
day of the tour.

Parking: Designated street and field parking in the
vicinity of each featured property, please refer to
the local map for locations.

Facilities: Tour headquarters, High Street United
Methodist Church, 31164 Camp Pkwy, Courtland,
VA 23237.

Refreshments: 1404 Clay Street, under the carport
from 1 to 3 p.m. Provided by Elizabeth River
Garden Club.

Special Activities:

- Traditional fox hunting attire and tack exhibit and
conversation at Wood's Hill, 1501 Clay Street from 1 to
3 p.m.
- Bartlett Tree Experts will be at Woods Hill, 1501 Clay
Street, with information and free saplings while
supplies last.
- Local Plein Air painters will be at each home.
Wet Painting Sale and Reception will take place
immediately following the end of the tour day at 4 p.m.
at Rawls Museum Arts, 22376 Linden Street, Courtland.

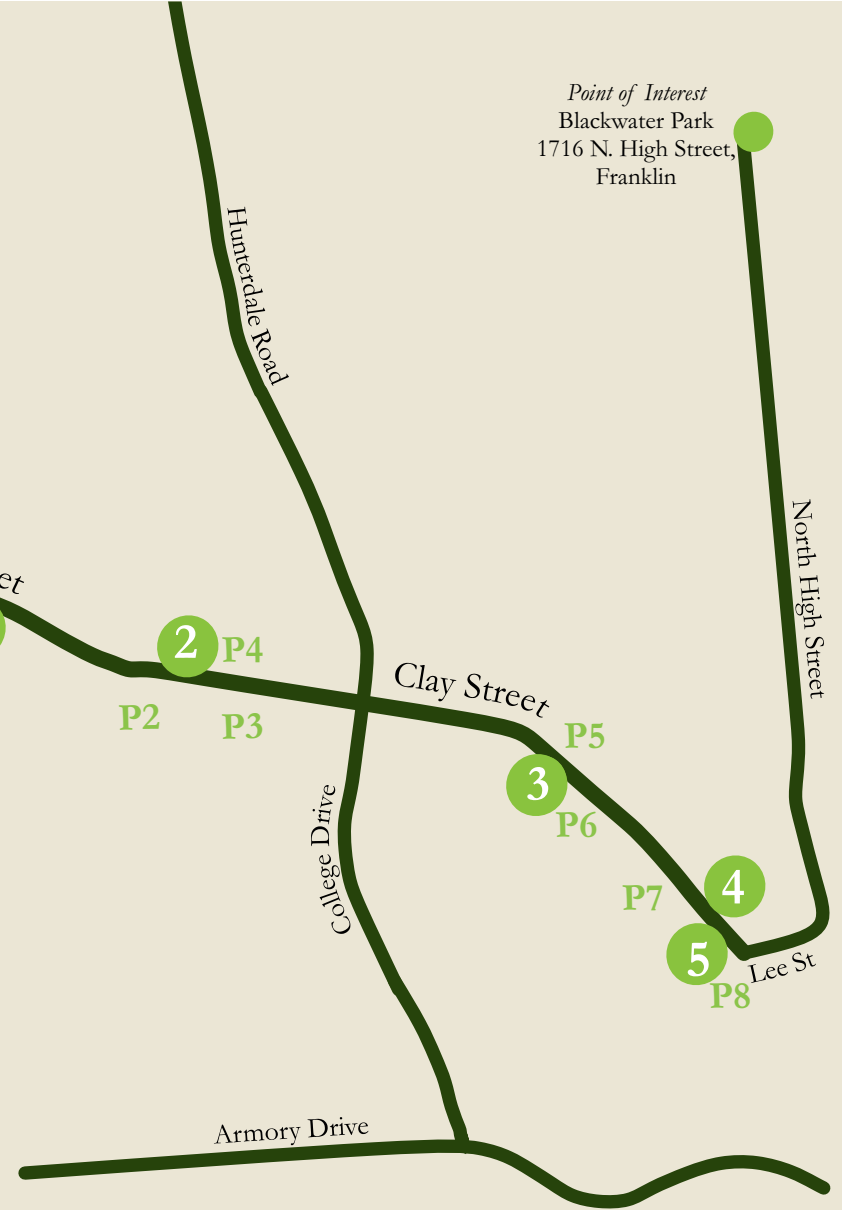
Point of Interest
Rawls Museum Arts (5.7 miles from HQ)
22376 Linden Street, Courtland
Paint Sale at 4PM

HQ

Tour Headquarters:

High Street United Methodist Church
31164 Camp Pkwy, Courtland, VA

Point of Interest
Blackwater Park
1716 N. High Street,
Franklin



TOUR LOCATIONS

HQ 31164 Camp Pkwy <i>1.3 miles</i>	3 1009 Clay Street <i>.5 mile</i>
1 1501 Clay Street <i>.5 mile</i>	4 722 Clay Street <i>46 ft</i>
2 1404 Clay Street <i>.7 mile</i>	5 717 Clay Street

Parking

**Please avoid blocking driveways*

P1 1513 Clay Street <i>Field Parking</i>	P5 St. Jude's Catholic Church
P2 Queens Lane	P6 Ridge Road
P3 Kings Lane	P7 Meadow Lane
P4 Southampton Road	P8 717 Clay Street <i>Field Parking</i>

TICKET PRICE INCLUDES ADMISSION TO THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES:

Located in the southeast portion of Virginia, Franklin is a town incorporated in 1876. Clay Street is one of its main thoroughfares, a charming area featuring homes and gardens, many of which are part of a Camp family legacy that began when three Camp brothers built their logging and paper operations. A stroll down Clay Street passes stately mansions and small cottages and is reminiscent of a time gone by. On this tour of five private homes, visitors will appreciate a variety of architectural styles, exceptional millwork, art, antiques, and well-loved gardens.

1 1501 CLAY STREET

This historic 17-acre estate represents a collaboration between 20th-century Virginian masters, landscape designer Charles Gillette and architect Alan McCullough. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, its history dates back to a small gas station and a log cabin restaurant known as “The Shack.” After working closely with both architects to transform the structures, Sol Rawls Jr., his wife, Ann Peace Rawls, and their children moved into their new brick home in 1951. It features old English bond brickwork and overlooks a newly created and landscaped pond. The library and foyer were crafted from reclaimed church pews, and Carter's Grove inspired a hallway arch. In addition to antiques and collections, the interior has a distinct equestrian and fox-hunting theme. The owner and her father shared a love of riding. Recently, she has focused on sustainability in the garden, including the removal of invasive plants. She plans to introduce new plant varieties that can weather climate change and adapt to different light requirements due to tree loss while preserving the estate's wonderland of color when the azaleas, rhododendrons, dogwoods, and camellias bloom.

The property contains uneven terrain. Caution is advised.

Owners: *Patricia Peace Rawls*



2 1404 CLAY STREET NEW TO THE TOUR

A distinctive yellow ranch, built in 1974 by Smiley Atkinson (Cookie's father), marked the start of a love story. The current owners celebrated their wedding reception in their new home. The landscaping design has grown to include evergreen shrubs and trees, including magnolias, pines, crepe myrtles, wax myrtles, hollies, euonymus, six varieties of boxwoods, and topiaries. Inside there are trompe-l'œil murals. Through this technique, the sunken living room conveys the atmosphere of an Italian garden; another room conjures a beachy coast. The owners' love of color and individual style is evidenced by their choices of custom upholstered pieces, slipcovers, rugs, and window treatments above the plantation shutters. They recently transitioned the great room into a safari-inspired space. Black floors and white paneled walls provide a striking backdrop for the brightly colored chairs, tropical and striped fabrics, and zebra rugs, creating an exotic retreat.

Owners: *Wilson and Ruth (Cookie) Drake*



3 1009 CLAY STREET

This charming story-and-a-half Colonial home, built in 1946 for Caroline “Carrie” Savage Camp, widow of James L. Camp, Sr., one of the founders of Camp Manufacturing Company, reflects its rich history. While an additional wing and front porch were added in 1954, the home retains many original features. The dining room once had a call bell beneath the dining table and private butler's quarters above the den, accessible by a discreet staircase. The butler's quarters were later transformed into a family living space, connecting the upstairs spaces with a hallway. The home's layout is inviting, with a large den with cypress wood paneling and a full-service wet bar hidden behind double doors that reveal a high-end bourbon collection. When they purchased the home in 2022, the yard and garden were overgrown with old trees and invasive plants. Since then, the owners have rejuvenated the gardens, removing unwanted trees and vegetation. Jasmine, hydrangeas, camellias, roses, and willows have transformed the outdoor space.

Owners: *George Lee and Jill Thorpe*



4 722 CLAY STREET

Since purchasing this turn-of-the-century home, the new owners have embarked on numerous projects to merge structural improvements with their artistic vision. They replaced the downstairs carpeting with hardwood flooring, adding intricate borders of contrasting wood to specific rooms and a striking starburst design in the foyer. All parts of the painted staircase were stripped and restored to their natural wood finish. Stained-glass windows, collected and custom-created by the owners, are standout features. There is new woodwork, most notably in the foyer, dining room, and living room, where a nine-piece crown molding with a stenciled insert adds a refined touch. Several rooms, including the kitchen and laundry area, were reconfigured to improve flow and functionality. The backyard features a whimsical, owner-built pirate ship connected to a pre-existing playhouse. The playhouse has a newly rebuilt barn-style roof, complete with repurposed shingles from Great Fork Church in Whaleyville.

Owners: *Dean and Kristina Russell*



5 717 CLAY STREET

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, The Elms, built in 1897 by Paul D. Camp, a founder of the Camp Manufacturing Company, symbolizes the success of an industrial empire that shaped southeastern Tidewater, Virginia. Camp Manufacturing evolved into Union Camp, which International Paper later acquired. The lumber and paper industries developed by Camp and his brothers after the Civil War revitalized the region's economy, bringing prosperity to the Camp family. The Camp family has created cultural and educational resources for the Franklin area through philanthropic foundations. These foundations are now administered from The Elms. This Victorian-style home reflects 19th-century tastes for ornate design. Notable features include woodwork made from rare North Carolina shortleaf curly pine, which Mr. Camp collected over 25 years. The hall and staircase showcase the distinctive graining of the shortleaf curly pine, while a collection of Dorothy Doughty porcelain birds and a hunt scene painting add to the decor. Set on seven acres of gardens and shaded by old trees, the property is known as the “Santa Claus House,” thanks to its annual rooftop display of Santa and his sleigh, a local tradition since 1935.

The Elms Foundation

