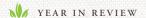
The YEAR IN REVIEW



2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT





DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

The Garden Club of Virginia is not just an organization; it is a testament to the enduring love and respect for nature, horticulture, and the preservation of Virginia's historic landscapes. The Garden Club of Virginia's contributions have had a profound impact on the state's cultural and environmental landscape. By restoring historic gardens, promoting sustainable practices, and fostering community engagement, we have enriched the lives of countless Virginians. Our

efforts have ensured that Virginia remains a place where the beauty of nature is celebrated and cherished.

This past year began with a vision to focus on a range of initiatives that enhanced our offerings and supported our efforts. Our officers and committee chairmen focused on providing a well-rounded course of events. In supporting this vision, we provided opportunities to our members through education and experiences to further their knowledge and bolster our mission. Through a collective effort, creative ideas, and countless hours by our volunteers and staff, we have exceeded our expectations in so many ways.

Highlights included the 66th annual Conservation Forum on protecting birds and insects; History Blooms "Step into the Garden;" Daffodil Day at Virginia Wesleyan University with multitudes of stems, artistic design arrangements, and photography displays; and another successful Historic Garden Week featuring the native plant *Coreopsis*. HGW welcomed 22,642 visitors from 42 states and 16 countries, generating \$13.3 million in economic impact and sustaining our restoration work. Our Restoration Committee has been hard at work on several projects including a new planting plan at Washington & Lee's University Chapel, and continued research through the Historic Landscape Research Fellowship.

As we turn the final page on last year's journey, I am filled with gratitude and pride on the extraordinary work that our members have accomplished. Together we laughed, learned, and connected as a community. The Garden Club of Virginia stands strong, united by our passion for cultivation – in both soil and spirit.

Warmly,

Kris Carbone, GCV President, 2024-2026

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA



DEAR FRIENDS OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA,

As we look back on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for your generous support. Your contributions sustain the Garden Club of Virginia's mission to preserve historic landscapes, protect natural resources, and cultivate a love of gardening across the commonwealth.

Because of you, we are able to tell the story of Virginia through the lens of treasured landscapes, to foster conservation programs that safeguard our environment, and to deliver educational programs that uplift and inspire the green spirit in all of us.

This year, we are delighted to share a new way of recognizing the generosity of our donors:

The 1920 Society – This new tier honors donors who contribute \$1,000 or more annually. Their leadership in giving strengthens our ability to plan boldly and make a lasting impact.

We are also overwhelmed by the record number of perennial donors cited in this report:

Perennials – A special recognition for those who have given for at least three consecutive years. Their steady commitment nurtures the roots of our work, allowing the GCV to grow season after season.

Whether you are a first-time supporter or a perennial, we are deeply grateful for your partnership.

With heartfelt thanks.

Andrea Butler, Executive Director

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA



THIS LEADERSHIP IN GIVING STRENGTHENS OUR ABILITY TO PLAN BOLDLY AND MAKE A LASTING IMPACT. THANK YOU.

BELVEDERE

\$30,000 AND ABOVE

Bartlett Tree Experts*
The Robert & Bessie Carter Foundation*
Hunton Andrews Kurth, LLP*

REGENCY TERRACE

\$15,000 AND ABOVE

Elisabeth Reed Carter Charitable Lead Trust*
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ALPINE GARDEN

\$5,000 TO \$10,000

Clarkie and Tom Eppes*

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These donors are also members of The 1920 Society.

The 1920 Society is a new designation to honor donors who have given \$1000 or more annually.

* Perennials - Donors who support the Annual Fund for three or more consecutive years

PRESIDENT'S PARTERRE \$1,000 TO \$4,999

All President's Parterre donors are also members of The 1920 Society.

The 1920 Society is a new designation to honor donors who have given \$1000 or more annually. This leadership in giving strengthens our ability to plan boldly and make a lasting impact. Thank you.

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* Perennials - Donors who support the Annual Fund for three or more consecutive years



GCV WELCOMED 46 first-time donors and 68 inductees into the 1920 Society

THE GCV AWARDED THREE fellowship grants to support research of historic landscapes and conservation

GCV MEMBER CLUBS WELCOMED

new members

THE KENT-VALENTINE HOUSE HOSTED

quests across 50 meetings and events

HOUSE IS SPARKLING: THE GCV CLEANED more than 1,034 crystal chandelier GCV'S RESTORATION prisms and framed 50 COMMITTEE AND portraits of Former GCV Presidents, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT **PROVIDED** garden among other donor-supported updates

NET PROCEEDS FROM HISTORIC GARDEN W **2025 EXCEEDED** \$766,000

HISTORY BLOOMS DAZZLED. with 26 member club arrangements, 1,681 workshop and program participants,

and 2,329 visitors

THE KENT-VALENTINE

55 awards to recognize and support outstanding work in conservation, education, horticulture, artistic design, and photography

THE GCV

PRESENTED

GCV COMMITTEES HOSTED more than

educational and workshops for members

DAFFODIL DAY **FEATURED** more than 1,700 stems, maintaining its status as one of the largest daffodil shows in the country



THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE TRACKED 27 ENVIRONMENTAL BILLS THROUGHOUT the legislative session, and supported three that became law (HB1941 HJ446, and HB2

GCV PRESIDENT KRIS CARBONE TRAVELED more than 35,000 miles across the commonwealth (plus one flat tire)



FROM THE TREASURER

The Garden Club of Virginia's financial stewardship focuses on more than balancing budgets—it's about sustaining the programs, projects, and connections that define our mission. This year, careful management, member generosity, and the success of Historic Garden Week allowed us to invest meaningfully in both our club and our commonwealth.

The GCV operates on a fiscal year that began July 1, 2024, and ended June 30, 2025. The

budgets for the fiscal year were presented by the Treasurer to the Board of Directors and then to the membership for a vote of approval at the May 2025 GCV Annual Meeting.

The GCV's largest source of revenue is our annual Historic Garden Week. The 2025 tour was a resounding success with a net income of \$766,775. These monies fund our restoration program and ongoing support of historic public landscapes throughout the commonwealth as well as a historic landscape research fellowship.

Sources of operating funds for the GCV include membership dues, the annual fund, donations, and sponsorships of events. In addition, we receive income from publication advertising, workshops and special programs, and rental of our carriage house. Our budget includes a draw of up to five percent from our Endowment Fund.

The expenses for the GCV include funding our restoration activities, fellowships, cash awards for member clubs' community projects, educational programs for members and for the general public, management and staff salaries,

44%

Historic Garden Week

Investments

Donations*

Dues

Other

property maintenance and operations of our headquarters, development, communications, and our yearly audit.

To communicate with our membership, we maintain our website, produce a monthly electronic newsletter and publish the *Journal* quarterly. We host and facilitate meetings for 17 standing committees and five special committees and fund two awards each year, the Common Wealth Award and the Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award.

As of June 30, 2025, GCV's assets totaled approximately \$13.3 million, including the Kent-Valentine House, cash reserves, and investment portfolios valued at \$10.9 million—representing 82 percent of total assets. Our Fiscal Year 2023-24 financial statements received a clean audit opinion. As a 501(c)(3) organization, our Federal Form 990 was filed this year and is available for public review.

The Board of Directors remains committed to transparency, fiscal responsibility, and aligning our resources with our mission. Through thoughtful budgeting and investment, we are well positioned to continue preserving Virginia's historic landscapes and enriching the experience of our members and communities.

Your generosity enables us to balance our budget while expanding our impact through the mission we share. It has been my honor to serve as your treasurer this year.

Kelly Johnson, Treasurer, 2024-2026
GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

Kelly Johnson

Financials are unaudited as of Sept. 2025 and will be audited by early 2026.

	\$ 506,721	30%	Management/Staff
A COUNTY	\$ 470,778	28%	Historic Garden Week
	\$ 460,667	27%	Programs*
	\$ 138,072	8%	Kent-Valentine House
	\$ 91,780	5%	Administration/Other
	\$ 28,062	2%	Fundraising

Income \$2,833,017

\$1,237,002

\$1,025,580

\$ 262,320

\$ 217,945

\$ 90,158

*Includes contributions to the Annual, Conservation, Common Wealth, Endowment, and KVH Funds

Expenses \$1,696,090

*Includes restoration of historic public landscapes and educational programs.



2025 HONOR ROLL OF SPONSORS

The Garden Club of Virginia's restorations of historic public gardens and fellowships in landscape architecture are made possible by the proceeds from Historic Garden Week in Virginia. We thank these sponsors for their gifts of \$1,000 or more.

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Individuals who include the Garden Club of Virginia in their estate plans are distinguished as members of the Green Arrow Society. Named for one of our enduring symbols, the Green Arrow Society recognizes those who point the way to a strong future.

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* Perennials - Donors who support the Annual Fund for three or more consecutive years

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Common Wealth Award

Since 1979, the Common Wealth Award (highlighting the "wealth" that is "common" to all Virginians) has provided an annual grant to member club projects focused on conservation, beautification, horticulture, preservation, and education. Proposals submitted in the spring are voted on by GCV member clubs. This year's recipient is **THE NATURE GARDEN ALONG THE SMITH RIVER PAW PATH AT THE SMITH RIVER SPORTS COMPLEX**, nominated by The Garden Study Club and The Martinsville Garden Club.



Jackie Van Dyke, President of The Garden Study Club; Kris Carbone, GCV President and member of The Garden Club of Danville; Frankie Smith, President of The Martinsville Garden Club; Common Wealth Award Committee Chairman Julia Boyd, member of Three Rivers Garden Club; and Debbie Lewis, Immediate Past President and member of The Garden Study Club.

Helen and Tayloe Murphy Award

The Helen and Tayloe Murphy Conservation Leadership in Government Award recognizes outstanding individuals and/or public governmental organizations in the Commonwealth of Virginia who have rendered exemplary service and visionary leadership in the conservation and wise development of the natural resources of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and who demonstrate a commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable practices. The 2024 Murphy Award was presented to **THE CITY OF STAUNTON** for its environmental restoration work at the Gypsy Hill Park Stream Restoration Project.



Cordelia Gary, The Augusta Garden Club; Willow Hughes of City of Staunton; The Augusta Garden Club President Nancy Williams; The Augusta Garden Club members Jeanne Huffman, Nancy Hill, and Anne Avery.





Dugdale Award for Meritorious Achievement in Conservation

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

The 2024 recipients were MARJORIE MAYFIELD JACKSON, founding director of the Elizabeth River Project, and BRUCE AND SUSAN JONES AND THE JONES NATURE PRESERVE in Rappahannock County. These recipients have demonstrated extraordinary dedication to conservation and ecological restoration, making significant impacts in their respective communities and beyond.



Conservation Educator Award

Established in 2016, the Conservation Educator Award recognizes individuals or organizations whose work in an educational environment supports the conservation

ideals of the Garden Club of Virginia. The 2024 Conservation Educator Award was presented to ROBIN BLAKE, a middle school science teacher at Chesapeake Academy in Irvington. Blake was nominated by The Garden Club of The Northern Neck.

Horticulture Award of Merit

Established in 1960 for individual members of the Garden Club of Virginia who have achieved significant accomplishments in horticulture, both personally and in the community at large. Two members received the Horticulture Award of Merit this year:



JOY COAKLEY, THE SPOTSWOOD **GARDEN CLUB**

Joy is a knowledgeable and enthusiastic member who has served as chairman of her club's Historic



Garden Week and horticulture committees. She is an active Master Gardener and has presented horticulture programs and workshops for The Spotswood Garden Club, other clubs, and James Madison University Arboretum public sessions. She enjoys sharing her plants and horticulture expertise, and visits many noted gardens for new plants and inspiration.

JANE COULTER, **MILL MOUNTAIN GARDEN CLUB**

Jane has been committed to promoting horticulture activities and education within her club, and to the



growth and sustainability of its signature project, the Mill Mountain Wildflower Garden. She works weekly sessions with members and has "led the charge" to install an educational propagation garden to encourage native seedlings. Jane collaborates with local horticulture agencies, societies, Boy Scouts, and Roanoke's Tree Steward programs.

Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award

This monetary award, in memory of Former GCV President Bessie Carter, funds the implementation of a conservation project within the state that will serve as a catalyst for community action. The award is presented annually to a GCV member club for either natural resource conservation or environmental protection.

HILLSIDE GARDEN CLUB: ACCESS TO NATURE AND OUTDOOR LEARNING ON THE COSBY TRAIL

Camp Kum-Ba-Yah Nature Center began in 1950 as a summer day camp and, since 2021, has served as the city's only year-round nature center on its 42-acre conservation easement. The newly opened 1.2-mile Cosby Trail circles the property with three neighborhood entrances, but lacks clear markers and plant/animal identification. Funding from the Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award will provide interpretive signs to guide hikers,

engage school groups (including a nearby 500-student elementary), and invite hesitant residents to explore the urban forest. The project will also be highlighted during Historic Garden Week activities hosted at KBY.





The Garden Club of Virginia has separate funds to support distinct pillars of our mission. Gifts to all funds except the Annual Fund are restricted to specific purposes. Many donors have made tribute gifts in honor of and in memory of others to these funds. The Garden Club of Virginia sends acknowledgment of these gifts to the honorees or to surviving family members.

THE ANNUAL FUND helps to provide the resources needed to fulfill the GCV's mission.

THE COMMON WEALTH AWARD FUND provides competitive grant funding for community-based projects led by our member clubs.

THE CONSERVATION FUND supports the GCV's educational programming, fellowships and advocacy to promote conservation and environmental stewardship.

THE ENDOWMENT FUND ensures that the GCV will maintain its leadership role in restoration, conservation, education, and beautification well into the future.

THE KENT-VALENTINE HOUSE FUND helps to preserve and maintain the Kent-Valentine House, a National Historic Landmark that serves as the GCV's headquarters.

THE RESTORATION FUND helps restore, preserve, and protect historic public landscapes and gardens for future generations.



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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.

Albemarle Garden Club-1913

The Garden Club of Alexandria-1925

The Ashland Garden Club-1922

The Augusta Garden Club-1919

The Blue Ridge Garden Club-1925

The Boxwood Garden Club-1937

The Brunswick Garden Club–1924
The Charlottesville Garden Club–1949

Chatham Garden Club-1921

The Garden Club of Danville-1918

Dolley Madison Garden Club-1919

The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore-1939

The Elizabeth River Garden Club-1927

The Garden Club of Fairfax–1926

Fauguier and Loudoun Garden Club-1915

The Franklin Garden Club-1945

Gabriella Garden Club-1933

The Garden Study Club-1946

The Garden Club of Gloucester & Mathews-1928

The Hampton Roads Garden Club-1932

Harborfront Garden Club-1953

Hillside Garden Club-1935

The Hunting Creek Garden Club-1942

The Huntington Garden Club-1935

The James River Garden Club-1915

Leesburg Garden Club-1915

The Little Garden Club of Winchester-1934

The Lynchburg Garden Club-1922

The Martinsville Garden Club-1923

The Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula-1994

The Mill Mountain Garden Club-1927

The Nansemond River Garden Club-1928

The Garden Club of Norfolk-1915

The Garden Club of the Northern Neck-1966

The Petersburg Garden Club-1925

The Princess Anne Garden Club-1932

The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club-1924

Rivanna Garden Club-1922

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The Spotswood Garden Club-1924

Three Chopt Garden Club-1939

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