



COURTESY OF THOMAS JEFFERSON'S POPLAR FOREST

1776 POPLAR FOREST PARKWAY

Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest

Thomas Jefferson's private retreat and plantation, Poplar Forest, provided him a peaceful sanctuary for reading, writing, and gardening after he retired from public life in 1809. Designed by Jefferson himself, the octagonal house reflects his interest in classical forms and balance. The 40-year restoration by a team of expert craftsmen uncovered the brilliance of his design. The interior features four elongated octagons surrounding a central dining room — a perfect twenty-foot cube lit from above by a sixteen-foot skylight. Although the exterior appears to be a single story, the dining room rises over two levels, creating an architectural surprise. Floor-to-ceiling windows and doors in the adjacent parlor open onto the columned south portico, which overlooks a sunken lawn once filled with ornamental flowers and shrubs. Archaeological research has revealed evidence of his ornamental grounds, including an eighty-foot-diameter carriage turnaround built by enslaved laborers, double rows of mulberry trees, and oval flower beds framed by clusters of decorative trees. Adopted by the GCV in 2011, Poplar Forest reflects Jefferson's vision both inside and out.

Complimentary shuttle to Jefferson's Poplar Forest from Peakland United Methodist Church, 4434 Boonsboro Road.



4415 BOONSBORO ROAD

Camp Kum-Ba-Yah Nature Center

Nestled within a 47-acre urban forest, 42 acres of which are protected through a conservation easement, the Camp Kum-Ba-Yah (CKBY) Nature Center serves as a naturalized space for outdoor play and education for the public. Founded in 1950 by Bev Cosby, who saw the need for a safe outdoor space for children during the summer, CKBY Nature Center has grown to offer year-round programming. Activities include environmental education field trips, gardening, hiking, team-building, swimming, events at Addison's Amphitheatre, and special celebrations. In spring 2025, Camp Kum-Ba-Yah was honored with the Bessie Bocock Carter Award from the Garden Club of Virginia for its signage along the Cosby Trail. Wild Ones will provide information on native plants, pollinators, and chemical-free yards, while local vendors will sell plants and gardening supplies.

KYLE SIMPSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Park at CKBY Nature Center or Peakland United Methodist Church (4434 Boonsboro Road) and walk to CKBY Nature Center.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Free access (to the gardens) for Historic Garden Week ticket holders.

POINT OF HONOR: 112 Cabell Street. Overlooking the James River, the property features a landscape restored by the GCV, including a circular stone drive, grove-like tree plantings, a demonstration apple orchard, visitor terrace, and plantings. pointofhonor.org

SWEET BRIAR HOUSE (Gardens Only): Route 29. The house is surrounded by a boxwood garden along with Daisy's Garden, both dating back to the 19th century. The GCV restored the front arrival court and expanded the original arboretum on the front grounds with native and exotic trees. The heart of the college's campus includes 21 buildings. sbc.edu

ANNE SPENCER HOUSE AND GARDEN: 1313 Pierce St. This Queen Anne-style house was home to noted Harlem Renaissance poet Anne Spencer and is a two-time GCV's Common Wealth Award winner. annespencermuseum.com

MILLER-CLAYTOR HOUSE AND GARDEN: 2200 Miller Claytor Lane. Lynchburg's only remaining 18th-century townhouse was initially located downtown and was moved to Riverside Park in 1936.

OLD CITY CEMETERY: 401 Taylor Street. An arboretum of historic plants with botanically labeled specimens, including over 425 antique roses, medicinal herbs, a butterfly garden and pond, a shrub garden, antique daffodils, and hundreds of native and ornamental trees. gravegarden.org

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA RESTORATION SITE

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

For details on event speakers at **POPLAR FOREST** or home and garden vendors and children's activities at **CAMP KUM-BA-YAH NATURE CENTER**, follow the Lynchburg tour on social media, or check the hosting clubs' websites at hillsidegardenclub.org and lynchburggardenclub.org.

Enjoy Sweet Briar College Farm wines and celebrate the College's 125th Anniversary from 4 to 6 p.m. in **DAISY'S GARDEN AT THE SWEET BRIAR HOUSE**, located 12 miles north of Lynchburg.

PRE-ORDER A BOXED LUNCH!

Farm Basket lunches for \$20 per person. Prepaid reservations by April 15. Pre-order with QR code. Pickup at CKBY Nature Center, 11 am–2 pm. Picnic area available.



We gratefully acknowledge the support of



GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA

Historic Garden Week

LYNCHBURG

Tuesday, April 21, 2026
10am–5pm



Tulipa 'Kingsblood'

HOSTED BY
The Lynchburg
Garden Club
& Hillside
Garden Club

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

GCVIRGINIA.ORG/HISTORIC-GARDEN-WEEK

LYNCHBURG'S HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK TOUR gives visitors access to four private homes and gardens, showcasing the city's Rivermont Historic District, as well as Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest, a National Historic Landmark and a Garden Club of Virginia restoration site, and the educational treasure of Camp Kum-Ba-Yah Nature Center. Just east of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Lynchburg tour combines old world charm with new conservation and horticultural practices to inspire and delight.

INFORMATION

Ticket includes admission to four private homes, Camp Kum-Ba-Yah Nature Center, Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest and access to the gardens at the Places of Interest.

ADVANCE TICKETS: \$50 per person. Available online at VAGardenWeek.org or by scanning QR code. Tickets may also be purchased locally at The Farm Basket, George's Seed, Feed & Grow, Overstreet Ace Hardware, Paisley's, and Virginia Garden Supply.



DAY OF TICKETS: \$60 per person day of tickets online or in person at Tour Headquarters and tour locations. \$15 single-site tickets sold at properties, cash or Venmo only. \$15 per child, 5–17 (online only). Free for children under 5.

WALKING TOUR: There are designated drop-off locations at all tour locations for those with mobility issues, but the properties are not wheelchair or handicap-accessible.

FACILITIES: Camp Kum-Ba-Yah Nature Center and Jefferson's Poplar Forest.

QUESTIONS?: Email Lynchburg@VAGardenWeek.org or visit VAGardenWeek.org/tours/lynchburg



1603 LANGHORNE ROAD *Country Estates*

Gracefully situated on 19 acres, this stately English country house was built in 1933 for R.J. Cullen by Fred B. Fuqua Jr. and designed by New York architects Pruitt and Brown. Its blend of white clapboard, painted brick, gray stone, and a Buckingham slate roof creates a timeless façade. Inside, Colonial and Georgian influences shape the home's gracious proportions. The wide, high-ceilinged entry hall opens to bright, spacious rooms ideal for family gatherings. The living room features a white Italian marble mantel and a bay window, while the dining room's picture window overlooks an extended lawn, riding ring, and distant Blue Ridge Mountains. Paintings by local artists adorn the walls throughout the house. A renovated kitchen and adjoining sitting area offer inviting modern comfort. An attached guest cottage adjoins thoughtfully planned gardens linked by brick walkways. Mature magnolia, dogwood, and oak trees shade borders of boxwood, hydrangea, camellia, peony, hellebore, and fern—creating a landscape that reflects both structure and serenity.

BETTY LYNN AND JOHN BLANKS, OWNERS

Street parking on Dorchester Court and Elk Street off Langhorne Road, walk to 1603 Langhorne Road.



1303 LANGHORNE ROAD

Secluded behind gated stucco walls, this Spanish Mediterranean estate is an architectural treasure. The entrance drive circles a mosaic-tiled fountain, while a wisteria-covered arbor shades the tiled porch. An open porch wraps around the side of the house, offering views of the recently restored teahouse, fountain, and swimming pool. Built in 1921, the residence features distinctive Mediterranean details, including stuccoed masonry and a green-tiled roof, creating a harmonious ensemble. The grand entry hall, with arched French doors and black-and-white marble floors, has a vaulted ceiling and wrought-iron light fixtures. It opens into a living room where portraits of the owners' parents by the late Scisbrooke Langhorne Abbott hang. The library's intricately carved mantel is one of five through-out the house. The expansive grounds, designed in 1922 by landscape architect George Burnap, whose work includes the White House gardens, remain lush. Original boxwoods and uncommon trees like European ash and ginkgo still flourish. Paintings by Mrs. Patterson, her great-grandmother, and local artists, along with a 1926 Steinway and an 1854 Knabe & Co. piano, complete this remarkable home. The property was last open for Historic Garden Week in 1993.

CLAUDIA AND TULANE PATTERSON, OWNERS

Street parking on or near Sunset Drive, walk to 1303 Langhorne Road.



3612 SUNSET DRIVE

Built in 1933 for Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Watson, this distinguished Colonial home was designed by the architectural firm Craighill and Cardwell. The two-story house was constructed using stone from Lynchburg's old city jail, within the façade, porch piers, and elevation showcasing the reclaimed material. The kitchen features custom cabinetry, soapstone countertops, and a Paris-inspired marble checkerboard inlay that repeats in the powder room and sunroom. Brass hardware throughout the house was carefully restored, and the family room's cypress walls add warmth and character. The addition includes a sunroom and a master suite redesigned for modern comfort, while a bluestone patio and outdoor living area extend into newly landscaped gardens lined with hornbeam trees. An open, screened veranda offers another inviting outdoor space. A highlight of the interior is a striking two-story mural created by Mrs. Sydnor. Executed in the grisaille technique, the monochromatic design draws inspiration from Colonial and early American landscapes, depicting serene forest scenes with birds and deer. The home's art collection includes works by local artists, among them the homeowner, reflecting a deep appreciation for creativity and place.

SALLIE AND WALKER SYDNOR, OWNERS

Street parking on or near Sunset Drive, walk to 3612 Sunset Drive.



4310 GREENWAY PLACE

Completed in 1929 for Edwin B. Horner and designed by architect Penn Clark, this Colonial-style home remained in the Horner family for three generations before being purchased by the Godseys in 2017. A 1947 first-floor bedroom addition complements the original design, and renovations thoughtfully modernized the house while preserving its architectural integrity. The limewashed brick façade, bluestone patios, and copper awning over the kitchen entry—sourced from New Orleans—highlight the home's enduring charm. Inside, widened doorways and raised casings create a sense of openness from the central hall to dining room and expanded kitchen. Original mantels and marble surrounds believed to have come from a downtown Lynchburg bank anchor the living and dining rooms. Art throughout features paintings by Annie Massie, Anne Harris Massie Winstead, and other local artists, as well as sketches by American Impressionist Bernhard Gutmann. Mature magnolia and Blue Atlas cedar trees, new garden borders, a shade garden, and a bronze, copper, and aluminum armillary by Swedish artisan Sune Rooth add structure and grace to the grounds.

RIE AND EDDIE GODSEY, OWNERS

Park at Peakland United Methodist Church (4434 Boonsboro Road) and walk to 4310 Greenway Place.

