

Historic Garden Week on the Eastern Shore 2026



Eyre Hall

3215 Eyre Hall Drive, Cheriton, VA 23316

Honored as a National Historic Landmark, this acclaimed ancestral property offers a rare picture of colonial plantation life. The key to Eyre Hall's remarkable preservation lies in its descent through nine generations of the same family. The gambrel-roofed manor was completed in 1758 by Littleton Eyre, who lavished his home with expansive spaces, superlative woodwork and handsome furnishings. Before the end of the century, Littleton's son and grandson had, in their turn, inherited his masterwork, adding an eastern wing and laying out a grand rear garden. Happily for historians, the three early owners were succeeded by stewards who declined to gild their classic legacy with the passing fancies of later eras. Today, Eyre Hall visitors are delighted to find that the refined style of its creators remains wonderfully in place. The past also lives in the garden, where venerable crepe myrtles tower above parterres enclosed by ancient boxwood and set off by colorful mixed borders. On the west, the recently stabilized remaining walls of an early orangery add a hint of romance to the garden scene. Beyond the house and garden, broad stretches of open fields and long views over Cherrystone Creek complete the placid panorama awaiting visitors to this perennial centerpiece of the Eastern Shore tour.

S. Eyre Baldwin, Grace Baldwin, owners.



Sugar Run

16374 Courthouse Road, Eastville, VA 23347

Situated next to the historic court green in the Northampton County seat, Eastville (1680), Sugar Run was built sometime in the 18th century and has been remodeled by the present owners. Historically, the home served as the first Masonic Lodge on the Eastern Shore of VA (1780) and as a hospital during the Civil War. The cottage onsite may have been owned by one of the first freed slaves in Northampton County. Original features in the home included floors and some shiplap in the main living space, and the fireplace. The owners salvaged and repurposed these original features throughout the house. As an interior designer, the owner loved the farmhouse look of the home and saw great potential to carve out multiple interior spaces from this gutted blank slate. Working with an architect, the owners opened the first floor to one large living space, reconfigured the interior stairway, and designed bathroom and kitchen spaces. When the property was purchased in 2019, only the large magnolia tree and crepe myrtles along the driveway existed. The owners have expanded with garden beds planted with historically accurate shrubs and flowers, along with some of their favorite perennials.

Jeanette and Jeff Coulter, owners.



Roselawn

5426 Bayford Road, Franktown, VA 23354

A drive through the picturesque village of Bayford and past its tiny harbor brings visitors to an attractive lane that threads through a stand of pines underplanted with rhododendrons and azaleas before opening to the house's circular forecourt. Built in 1981 from old bricks, the main section of this Georgian-style house is copied from a previous residence of the family on Roselawn Road in Richmond. The addition of the clapboard wing is an adaptation of the Richmond house for more informal living. The house features distinctive architectural details: the split pediment over the front entrance was made by a local craftsman; windows are built into the chimney walls; there are deep windowsills, heavy chair rails, wide moldings and colonial casings. The center hall has a well-proportioned staircase with wainscoting. The handcrafted living and dining room mantels are copies of 18th-century mantels. Furnishings throughout the house include Hepplewhite, Chippendale and other Federal-period pieces. Last opened in 2001, changes include a kitchen remodel, a corner kitchen garden, and new beds of flowers and vegetables. Situated with water on three sides, Roselawn is positioned to take advantage of summer breezes and winter sun, offering marvelous views over Church Creek towards Chesapeake Bay.

Susan and Jeff Price, owners.



Windemere (garden only)

7332 Bayside Road, Franktown, VA 23354

Windemere, a classic and stately gambrel-roofed home, has stood on its site in the charming town of Franktown for one hundred years and replaced a previous home from the 1880s that burned in 1920. Stands of boxwoods as old as the home highlight the gardens which have been expanded in the last five years by the present owners. Moss-covered pathways allow visitors to meander through the older boxwood gardens and add to the aura of this "secret garden". Standouts in the gardens are iris, hydrangea and peonies surrounded by Virginia bluebells and more. A lovely side porch was enclosed when the home was remodeled in 1960 and allows for gardens to be enjoyed indoors. Gardens in the backyard are framed by outbuildings, including a former smokehouse and the overgrown foundations of a small horse barn. The windmill was built at the turn of the 20th century to provide water to the house. A peony garden is planted beneath and expanded every year with different varieties, along with daisies. The stand of pines framing the property's rear boundary was planted by a previous resident as a Boy Scout project to serve as a windbreak.

Whitney and Fran Ryan, owners.



Rancho Contento Garden Railroad (garden only)

10162 Rogers Drive, Nassawadox, VA 23413

This garden surrounds a Federal-style brick home built in 1925 and features a landscaped outdoor model train set in a miniature version of Nassawadox. The town gained local prominence as a hub of trade and commerce due to the steam-powered sawmill that once operated there. Nassawadox is named for the Nussawatok Indians, whose name is derived from "land between two waters." This year the Stiths celebrate fifty years in this stately home, and for the last twenty of that Dr. Drury Stith has been constructing a garden scale railroad in the backyard. This is a model train system that uses a small track (1.75 inches wide) often used in outdoor layouts and called garden railways. The models are large, durable and weather-resistant for outdoor use. The Stith railroad now features over 700 feet of track, with four main loops and two trolley loops. Models of nearby Franktown buildings, including historic downtown structures like the bank, Franktown Town Hall, and the lumber company are part of the display. In addition, the indoor pool area leads to a wonderful Orchid House. The gardens boast mature plantings, old trees, massive crepe myrtles, and nine varieties of boxwood to explore.

Patsy and Drury Stith, owners.



Ingleside

2199 Morley's Wharf, Exmore, VA 23486

Overlooking Occohannock Creek and Morley's Wharf, Ingleside (1786) is approached by an oyster shell road and a narrow bridge built over an inlet of Occohannock Creek. The property includes more than a mile of waterfront and nearly the same 300 acres in the original patent to John Baldwin in 1648. The brick home was built in the Federal period, laid in Flemish bond and situated on high ground with outstanding water views. The home is embellished with several notable Federal-period elements: a high porch entrance, a center hall plan with symmetrical double door entrances on the ends, paneled walls, and splendid wainscoting in the parlor and library where elaborately carved mantels anchor chimney breast walls. Other original, Federal-period details include heart pine flooring, plaster work, and exterior wood lintels over windows with a simple cornice. A garden of peonies and spring bulbs, planted by the owner's grandmother, enhances the entrance yard. Two additions in 1957 and 1960 maintain the period and style of the original construction. A Young family burial plot is located in the northwest corner of the yard (1800-1855) Three generations of Walker family members have been raised in the home.

Ellen Walker, owner.

Other Places of Interest

 **Barrier Islands Center and Almshouse Farm**
7295 Young St., Machipongo, VA 23405

 **Hungars Episcopal Church**
10107 Bayside Rd., Machipongo VA 23405

 **Christ Church**
16304 Courthouse Road, Eastville, VA 23347

 **Historic Northampton County Courthouse and Court Green**
16404 Courthouse Rd., Eastville, VA 23347

 **Cape Charles Rosenwald School**
1500 Old Cape Charles Rd., Cape Charles, VA 23310

Kiptopeke State Park
3540 Kiptopeke Dr., Cape Charles, VA 23310

 Virginia Historic Landmark and/or National Register of Historic Places

THANK YOU 2026 SPONSORS

dogwood sponsor

PNC Bank

rose sponsors

Tom Waller

lily sponsors

At Altitude Gallery/North Street Market

Bay Creek Realty

Coastal Shore Vacations

Abbi and John Custis

Harmanscapes

daffodil sponsors

Broadwater Academy

Chatham Vineyards

Eastern Shore Custom Carts

Ervin Architectural Products, Inc.

Jennifer W. Klein - Fine Art

Jenny Barker

Lizzy Webb Designs

Matthew Freeze Painting Co.

New Ravenna

Taylor Bank

Weichert Realtors Mason-Davis

Williams Funeral Homes

seed sponsors

Coastal Flower Company

Love Letters



Driving Directions From Route 13

★ **Franktown Church Central Check-in**
7551 Bayside Road (Franktown)

Vistors may also check in at Eyre Hall

From Rte. 13 at the Nassawadox light: Turn West on Rogers Drive. Proceed 1.1 mi to Bayside Rd. Turn left, proceed approximately 1 mi to Tour HQ. Parking is on the left.

★ **Eyre Hall**
3215 Eyre Hall Drive (Cheriton)

From Rte. 13 between Eastville and Cheriton: Turn West on Eyre Hall Dr. Proceed 1 mi. to parking.

★ **Sugar Run**
16374 Courthouse Road (Eastville)
From Rte. 13 North, turn left onto US 13 Bus N / Courthouse Rd for 1.4 mi. Sugar Run on left.

★ **Roselawn**
5426 Bayford Road (Franktown)
*(Do not use Google Maps for directions, Apple Maps will work)
From Rte. 13 between Nassawadox and Birdsnest: Turn West onto Bayford Rd. Proceed for 3.6 mi. (At this point GPS does not work! Please follow HGW signs to destination in approx. 1 mi.)*

★ **Windemere**
7332 Bayside Road (Franktown)
*From Rte. 13 S in Nassawadox, turn right on Rogers Dr. Proceed .8 mi and turn left on Bayside Rd. Proceed .6 mi.
From Rte. 13 N approaching Nassawadox, turn left on Franktown Rd. Proceed 1.1 mi and turn right on Bayside Rd. Proceed .2 mi.*

★ **Rancho Contento Garden Railroad**
10162 Rogers Drive (Nassawadox)
From Rte. 13 in Nassawadox, turn West on Rogers Dr. Rancho Contento is on left.

★ **Ingleside**
2199 Morley's Wharf (Exmore)
From Rte. 13, in Exmore, turn West on to W Occobannock Neck Rd and proceed for 2.8 mi. Turn right onto Morley's Wharf Rd. for 1 mi. Turn right towards Ingleside.



VIRGINIA
IS FOR
LOVERS



Eastern Shore Tour Map

Directions to the Tour Area

From the South: Rt. 13 (Northampton Blvd.) in Virginia Beach to Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and continue north on Rt.13.

From the north: Delaware Memorial Bridge to Rt. 1 South to Rt. 13 South.

From Washington/Baltimore: Rt. 50 East across Bay Bridge at Annapolis and continue on Rt. 50 East to Rt. 13 South at Salisbury.




@Historic Garden Week
on the Eastern Shore



@historicgardenweekeasternshore

*Historic Garden Week proceeds are used by
The Garden Club of Virginia for the restoration and
preservation of historic gardens throughout the state.*

Saturday, April 25, 2026

Rain or Shine

All sites open 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Website: www.VAGardenWeek.org

Tickets: \$40 per person advance purchase (\$50 day of tour)
\$15 per child ages 5-17. Tickets must be purchased online at
<https://www.VAGardenWeek.org/main/tickets>
Sold online only.

Tour Headquarters and Central Check-in:
**YOU MUST CHECK IN AT TOUR HQ: FRANKTOWN
METHODIST CHURCH, OR EYRE HALL TO RECEIVE
TOUR WRISTBAND.**

Open 9 am. Franktown United Methodist Church, 7551
Bayside Road, Franktown.

Parking: This is a driving tour. Parking available
at all properties.

Facilities: Franktown United Methodist Church, and
portable restrooms available at select properties.

Information:

Catherine Hubbard and Lisa Tankard, *Tour Chairs*
EasternShore@VAGardenWeek.org

Lunch: Box lunch is available by prepaid reservation only.
Order by April 11: <http://www.franktownunitedmethodist.org>.
Pick up 11am – 2 pm at the central check-in, Franktown
United Methodist Church, 7551 Bayside Road, Franktown.
Seating will be available.

Additional local dining options: <https://visitesva.com/>

VISITOR GUIDELINES:

- Visitors must first check in at Franktown Methodist Church, or Eyre Hall to receive wrist band.
- After receiving wrist band, properties may be visited in any order.
- Tour requires walking in outdoor settings. Please wear comfortable shoes.
- No cell phone or camera use inside properties.
- Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

*The Garden Club of Virginia, The Garden Club of the
Eastern Shore, and participating property owners are
not responsible for accidents occurring on the tour.*

**A strong
community is
built on a solid
foundation.**

At PNC, we're proud to live and work
among the people and organizations
that dedicate themselves to making
our communities brilliant.

 PNC BANK

BRILLIANTLY
BORING
SINCE 1865™

Brilliantly Boring since 1865 is a service mark
of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.

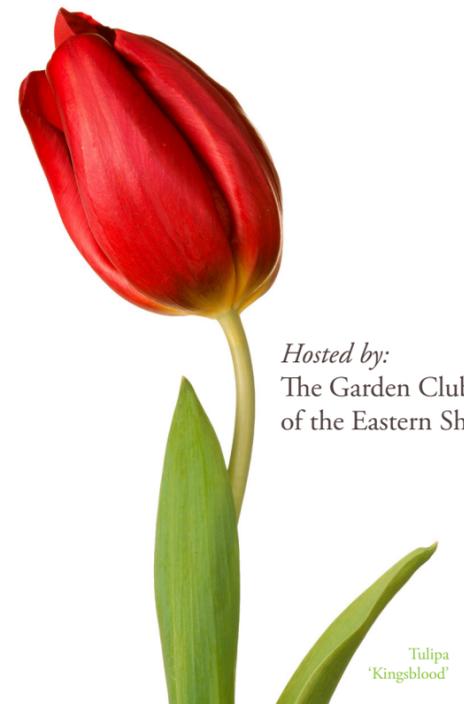
©2026 The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. All rights reserved.
PNC Bank, National Association. Member FDIC.



Historic Garden Week

**HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK
ON THE EASTERN SHORE**

Saturday, April 25, 2026
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Hosted by:
The Garden Club
of the Eastern Shore

Tulipa
'Kingsblood'

PROCEEDS FUND THE RESTORATION OF
VIRGINIA'S PUBLIC GARDENS AND A
RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
GCVIRGINIA.ORG/HISTORIC_GARDEN_WEEK