



GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA  
**JOURNAL**

Spring 2026 | Volume LXXI | No. 2

INSIDE

History Blooms | Daffodil Day  
Arthur Shurcliff and GCV

*Sam Raven*



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**SEPTEMBER 23, 2026**

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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.

### 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).

### PUBLICATION SCHEDULE & DEADLINES

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Winter	February	December 8	November 8

### ADVERTISING

Advertising inquiries are welcome. Discounts are available to clubs and club members; frequency discounts are also available.

For a rate sheet or more information, visit the GCV website at [gcvirginia.org](http://gcvirginia.org) or contact *Journal* Ad Sales Manager at [journalads@gcvirginia.org](mailto:journalads@gcvirginia.org).

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Julie Westermann, *Journal* Editor  
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ABOVE LEFT  
*History Blooms 2026: Revolutionary Gardens*

ABOVE RIGHT  
*Exploring GCV's relationship with renowned landscape architect Arthur Shurcliff*

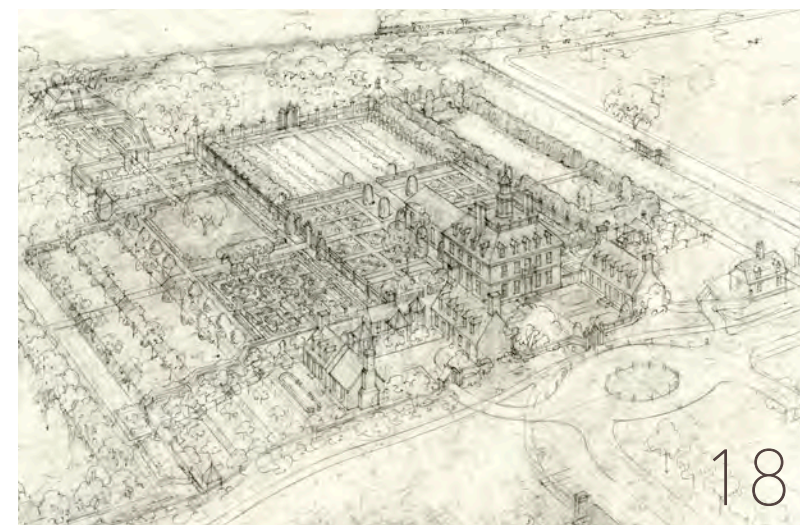
*Northeast View Looking Toward Governor's Palace Complex - Bowling Green and Orchard in Upper Left of Image - Special Collections, John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation*

COVER ART:  
*Backyard Oasis* by Laura Trevey



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*Nansemond River Garden Club provides arrangements for gubernatorial inauguration*

ABOVE  
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### INSIDE THE GCV: HOLLINS UNIVERSITY INTERN EXPANDS DIGITAL ARCHIVE PROJECT

Over 4,000 private properties have opened on tour since the start of Historic Garden Week in 1929; however, most early records of these properties were not preserved. Many tour chairmen have asked for this information on past properties to be available to them — most helpful when planning their own tours.

The HGW Digital Archive Project was launched three years ago to gather this information for our members. This past January, the Historic Garden Week office welcomed another intern from Hollins University for its "J Term." **Autumn Bragg**, a sophomore,



dedicated her full-time efforts to advancing this data-gathering process while earning college credit.

Autumn organized and scanned three decades of *Guidebooks*, approaching the task with enthusiasm and precision. Thanks to her efforts, our members now have online access to an impressive 66 years of historical information and can view a database of properties from all *Guidebooks* dating back to 1960.

Visit [GCVirginia.org](http://GCVirginia.org) and navigate to:

*Historic Garden Week* >  
*Tour Guidebook* >  
*Guidebook Archives*

ON THE COVER: ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

# LAURA TREVEY

*The Boxwood Garden Club, Richmond*



Laura Trevey's luminous watercolor, *Backyard Oasis*, invites viewers into a tranquil, brick-walled retreat bursting with blooming hydrangeas and greenery — perfect for dreaming of iced tea afternoons with friends.



Laura is a Richmond-based artist, entrepreneur, and passionate gardener. Her work captures the quiet magic of backyard spaces while reflecting her lifelong devotion to nature, family, and the beauty of Virginia's gardens.

Laura fondly recalls, 20 years ago, when her three children were very young and her grandmother, also an artist, suggested they take a watercolor class together for a few hours of "creative therapy" each week. Laura has been painting ever since. Her vibrant collection of original paintings and giclée prints celebrate the natural world. "I'm drawn to the way light and color can transform an ordinary scene into something extraordinary," Laura says. Her style features flowing washes and delicate details that evoke the freshness of a garden in full bloom.

Central to Laura's inspiration is a deep love of gardening, cultivated from childhood by her mother, Carole Whittle. A past president of Roanoke Valley Garden Club, Carole passes down an appreciation for being an active member of a garden club. "My mother thrives on being part of a community of women who share the same appreciation for flower arranging, beautiful gardens, and the preservation of them," she reflects. Laura shares this passion

through her active membership in The Boxwood Garden Club, where she serves as social co-chairman for Historic Garden Week, an event made even more special by its alignment with the nation's 250th anniversary celebration. "It's an honor to help showcase Virginia's historic gardens during such a milestone year," she notes, adding that it blends her artistic sensibility with her commitment to preserving and sharing green spaces.

Whether painting in her studio or showcasing HGW homes and gardens through her lens, Laura embodies the harmony between creativity and cultivation. In a fast-paced world, her watercolors gently remind us to pause, breathe, and appreciate the beauty blooming right outside our doors. [lauratrevey.com](http://lauratrevey.com)

—Jo Silvers, *The Garden Club of Danville*

*Garden Delight* (above) watercolor on paper, 11"x15" and *Backyard Oasis*, watercolor on paper, 15"x15" (above right and on the cover)

## GCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2026

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**District 5 (2025-2027):** Katie Harvard, The Little Garden Club of Winchester

**District 6 (2025-2027):** Ellie Gordon, The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

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## CELEBRATING SPRING

As the days grow longer and the first buds and blooms appear, we celebrate the arrival of spring — a magical time for gardeners and nature lovers alike. The garden awakens, inviting us to nurture new life and reconnect with the natural beauty that surrounds us.

This season let's embrace the joy of planting, learning, and sharing within our community. Whether you're sowing seeds for the first time or tending to well-loved perennials, spring is a time for renewal and growth. Don't forget to take a moment to appreciate the fresh scents, vibrant colors, and gentle breezes that make our gardens so special.

As an organization, we look forward to upcoming GCV and club meetings, Horticulture Field Day, and the Lily Show. I encourage you to share your spring gardening stories, tips, and photos with fellow members. Together, let's make this season one to remember — filled with inspiration, creativity, and friendship.

Happy gardening and happy spring!

Kris Carbone  
GCV President, 2024–2026



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## A MEMORABLE JOURNEY



The proposition was impossible to resist.

It was the opportunity to lead the talented team of editors and contributors who plan, write, and produce the Garden Club of Virginia *Journal*. But I saw it as much more than that: It was the opportunity to recognize the good works you do in your communities, showcase your creativity, and celebrate your passion for all that this organization stands for.

I had to say “yes.”

After many years in corporate communications and public relations, and four years of blissful retirement during which I joined Three Rivers Garden Club, our GCV Board of Directors gave me the opportunity to return to my roots as a journalist, the first and most fulfilling job of my career. It's through storytelling that we get to know one another more deeply, learn about opportunities to improve our communities, and spread the joy of cultivating and protecting our natural world.

As I step into this exciting new role, I invite you to join me for a virtual walk down the garden path and share your thoughts on how we can make the *Journal* even more relevant and engaging. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this issue of the *Journal* and the awakening spring that beckons us outside to our gardens.

Warmly,

Julie Westermann,  
*GCV Journal Editor*  
[Journal@GCVirginia.org](mailto:Journal@GCVirginia.org)



### GCV JOURNAL 2026 COMMITTEE

The Garden Club of Virginia *Journal* is produced by a broad group of individuals, including several contributing writers. Their names are included in the article bylines throughout this publication. The editing and advertising team consists of the following:

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Julie Westermann,  
Three Rivers Garden Club

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Sarah Blackburn,  
GCV Communications Director

#### GCV COMMITTEE NEWS EDITOR

Lynne Manning,  
The Garden Club of Gloucester and Mathews

#### EDITOR FOR MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Nancy Inman,  
Albemarle Garden Club

#### EDITOR FOR COVER ART

Jo Silvers,  
The Garden Club of Danville

#### ADVERTISING MANAGER

Robin Walker,  
The Garden Club of Fairfax  
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## Flowers for Virginia

With their clippers sharpened and workbags full, 12 ladies of The Nansemond River Garden Club headed to Richmond on January 15 to create floral arrangements for the Commonwealth of Virginia's Gubernatorial Inauguration. The group was excited to be a small part of the historic inauguration of Virginia's first female Governor, Abigail Spanberger.

The club was asked to provide the floral creations 16 years ago for the inauguration of Governor Terry McAuliffe. The Clerk of the House is charged with the plans for inaugurations. When Paul Nardo realized he was responsible for the flowers, he asked the Clerk of the Senate, Susan Schaar, for advice, saying he knew nothing about flowers. She told him she knew someone who may be able to help. She then called her sister, Sandy Hart, who is a member of the NRG. The club accepted the challenge and has created flowers for not only McAuliffe, but also Governors Ralph Northam and Glenn Youngkin. The original idea was to rotate the task of floral arrangements through other clubs in the GCV, involving more Virginians in the inauguration, and it is still the intent for future inaugurations. The NRG is hoping to work with the GCV on this project moving forward.

This year, wedged in between holidays, a group of four NRG members got together to decide on a theme, the designs,



and the types of containers they would use for each arrangement. The group wanted each design to suggest the beautiful gardens of Virginia. To create the feel of a garden, the group used metal planters, bird houses, moss-lined baskets, clay pots, and tuteurs. One member even enlisted (with a little arm twisting) her husband's help, and the two of them built the four tuteurs used in the display in the Old Senate Chamber and the Jefferson Room.

Once designs were decided, the flower order was compiled. The inaugural team wanted bright, happy flowers, and since all the areas in the capitol are expansive, arrangers needed a lot of blooms and floral material. NRG worked with Jacob Ortenzio of Price's Floral Wholesale in Chesapeake for the flower order, and flowers were shipped to the State Capitol.

Truly a bit of Suffolk went to Richmond in the form of greenery! The members of the club spent the week ahead of the trip cutting and gathering beautiful greenery from yards all over Suffolk. Yard offerings included mountains of smilax, poet's laurel, pittosporum, ivy, pussy willow, fatsia, corkscrew willow, red twig dogwood, magnolia, and anything anyone thought would be interesting! The group arrived in Richmond at midday Thursday, got set up in the workroom, and began the arrangements. Work continued Friday morning until all the arrangements were in place, watered, and sprayed. There were many visitors in the workroom during arranging, drawn in by the fragrance of the flowers and the laughter as the group worked together. The soon-to-be First Gentleman, Adam Spanberger, stopped in and was amazed! GCV President Kris Carbone spent Friday afternoon with the arranging team, lending a hand to get the arrangements moved and lifted into place.

The extremely exhausted, but exhilarated group left Richmond at 4:30 p.m., thrilled to be a small part of Virginia's 75th Inauguration. The group of 12 created 16 arrangements dedicated to the historic restored gardens of Virginia and in honor of Gov. Spanberger. What a special, memorable experience – from start to finish – for GCV members! 🌿

—Donna Standish, Nansemond River Garden Club



Photos courtesy of Nansemond River Garden Club

## Bartlett Tree Tips on the Southern Magnolia

Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) is a magnificent, slow-to-moderate growing evergreen tree. It is well suited as a large specimen plant or as part of a group planting screen. Large, glossy green leaves and showy white, summer flowers make it a popular ornamental in warm climates. If winter temperatures drop between 20°F to -10°F damage or mortality can occur; damage usually occurs below 0°F.

Southern magnolia grows best in acidic (pH 5 to 6), well-drained, loamy, moist, rich soils. They are tolerant of high soil moisture but cannot withstand prolonged flooding. Partial shade or full sun is ideal.

This species should be mulched to the dripline to make watering and fertilization easier and to promote root growth. Letting branches grow to the ground allows for an accumulation of fallen leaves and branches that produce a natural mulch and reduce traffic, which can compact soil. The root collar must be kept free of mulch and soil to prevent disease.



Southern Magnolia at Colonial Williamsburg. The oldest known Magnolia trees still growing on Colonial Williamsburg properties date to the early 19th Century. Photo courtesy of James City County Williamsburg Master Gardener Association

Irrigation is essential in dry climates in both the summer and winter. Southern magnolia prefers 40 to 80 inches of water every year. Mulch will conserve soil moisture and speed penetration of water into the root zone. High salts or boron in irrigation water will cause marginal leaf-scorching.

Southern magnolia often becomes deficient in nitrogen and iron. Nitrogen deficiency appears as overall yellowing of the foliage. Annual fertilization when trees are young prevents this problem and promotes rapid growth. As the tree matures, a lower rate of nitrogen may be used. Iron deficiency occurs when the tree is grown in alkaline soils, wet soils, or when there are other root problems. Iron deficiency can be treated by adding a product to lower soil pH and by adding iron chelate to the soil.

Fungal leafspot diseases rarely damage southern magnolia but may cause premature defoliation and an unsightly appearance. Algal leafspot can cause unsightly spots in hot and humid locations (pictured at right). Wood decay can enter and weaken the stem and roots, so avoid wounding (including pruning) if possible. Armillaria attacks stressed and low vigor trees. Verticillium wilt, another fungal disease, can infect the root system and cause dieback of branches.

Trees should be monitored for scale insects on twigs and leaves. Black sooty mold is common with heavy infestations of soft scales. Bleaching of the leaves may be caused by thrips or spider mites. Black twig borers can cause damage to new growth twigs in the southeastern US. Occasionally, looper caterpillars, whitefly, and mealybugs damage southern magnolias. 🌿



### Award Nominations Deadlines

**JUNE 1**  
Conservation Educator Award

Dugdale Award for Meritorious Achievement in Conservation

The Helen and Tayloe Murphy Conservation Leadership in Government Award

**NOVEMBER 1**  
Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award

**DECEMBER 1**  
Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement.

For award descriptions, nomination details and forms, past recipients, and additional award information visit [GCVirginia.org/awards](http://GCVirginia.org/awards).



Are you seeking fresh inspiration for your garden? Do you enjoy exploring beautiful landscapes and discovering new ideas to bring home? The 2026 Garden Club of Virginia Horticulture Field Day offers a delightful opportunity to do just that.

The event begins on the afternoon of June 9 with tours of four private gardens, each welcoming guests to experience its unique character and design. One garden highlights vibrant perennial beds complemented by native trees and shrubs. Another features formal garden rooms anchored by dramatic focal points and thoughtfully integrated hardscapes, offering endless design inspiration. A third garden showcases clever plant combinations that create an intimate, inviting atmosphere. At yet another, cutting beds filled with bulbs, annuals, and perennials inspire visions of beautiful, garden-grown bouquets.



The afternoon concludes at the final garden with a special "Sip and See" reception at 4 p.m. This location will also host the popular Photography Workshop, providing participants the opportunity to refine their skills in a stunning setting.

On the morning of June 10, Peggy Cornett and staff will lead attendees on a tour of Tufton Farm, home of the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants. Guests will explore inspiring display gardens, learn about heirloom and historic plant varieties, and enjoy a special opportunity to purchase plants grown at Monticello. Knowledgeable staff will be available to answer gardening questions and share their expertise.

—Patsy Smith, GCV Horticulture Committee Chairman, Winchester-Clarke Garden Club



## Bittersweet HGW News

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA  
*Historic Garden Week*

For ten years, Terri Lowman has been a valued member of the Garden Club of Virginia team, most recently serving as the Historic Garden Week Advertising and Marketing Manager. She will retire at the end of June. Appreciative of the extensive responsibilities GCV volunteers undertake, Terri's approach has always been gracious and supportive, with an emphasis on fostering trust and developing strong relationships. Her dedication, organizational skills, and cheerful attitude have truly made a difference, not only to our clubs but also to HGW advertisers, sponsors, and visitors.

Her long-time involvement with HGW sparked her love for gardening, a favorite hobby she will carry into retirement, along with her



passion for civic engagement. We wish Terri a warm farewell as

she begins this new life chapter.

## Join us for "Renewal," the 2026 GCV Lily Show

**When:** June 17-18, 2026  
**Where:** Grace Baptist Church, 4200 Dover Road, Richmond  
**Theme:** Renewal  
**Hosts:** The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton

"Renewal," the 2026 Lily Show, is warmly dedicated to the memory of the late Mary Meade Trice Davenport, a beloved member of The Tuckahoe Garden Club of

Westhampton, GCV and Garden Club of America. She served in numerous leadership positions over her many decades of membership, including president of her club and treasurer of GCV.

A voracious and dedicated gardener, she filled her home with flowers cut from her gardens and generously opened both of her homes for Historic Garden Week over the

years. Mary Meade's legacy of nurturing both her fellow garden club members and her beautiful gardens will be reflected in the beauty and creativity sure to grace the "Renewal" Lily Show this year.

The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton offers an inaugural award in Mary Meade's memory in the Botanical Arts category, a first for the Lily Show. This award exemplifies her love and support of novice gardeners in her beloved Virginia. We are grateful to the family of Mary Meade Davenport and for all our participants who honor her memory along with The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton.

Mary Meade Trice Davenport



Renewal

GCV 2026 Lily Show  
June 17-18, 2026

Hosted by The Tuckahoe  
Garden Club of Westhampton

*Lilium philadelphicum*

GARDEN CLUB  
OF VIRGINIA

# Daffodil Day

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY



This spring, when the last chill of winter began to soften, the Garden Club of Virginia's annual Daffodil Day transformed the Jane P. Batten Student Center at Virginia Wesleyan University into a luminous celebration of color, fragrance, and creativity. This year's exhibition was a breathtaking showcase of talent across three distinct yet harmonious divisions – artistic design, horticulture, and photography – celebrating our country's 250 birthday with the theme, *America the Beautiful*. Visitors were welcomed by a patriotic sea of golden trumpets, ruffled petals, and delicate white and apricot blooms — each one a testament to the enduring charm of the daffodil.

Artistic designers drew inspiration from the sweeping imagery of *America the Beautiful*, incorporating flowing lines to echo “amber waves of grain,” layered textures to suggest “purple mountain majesties,” and vibrant color palettes reflecting the rich diversity of America's landscapes. One featured class paid special tribute to Brent and Becky's Bulbs, a beloved family-owned business known nationwide for its exceptional daffodils and flowering bulbs. Another class honored our troops, expressing appreciation for the courage, sacrifice, and service of members of the United States Armed Forces. By weaving together floral artistry, national history, and poetic inspiration, the designers created a tribute that was both visually stunning and deeply meaningful.

Beyond the artistry lay the horticulture division, the heart of the show. Long shelves were lined with 1,335 meticulously groomed specimens, each entered by



diversity of the flower within the genus *Narcissus*.

The photography division of this year's Daffodil Day offered a stirring visual tribute to the theme *America the Beautiful*. While the horticulture specimens dazzled on the show benches, it was through the camera lens that exhibitors expanded the story — capturing daffodils not only as flowers, but as symbols woven into the vast and varied American landscape.

In honoring *America the Beautiful*, the photography division captured more than scenery; it revealed the profound connection between flower and place, between fleeting bloom and enduring land.

Through mountains, fields, birds, and beloved streetscapes, the lens reminded viewers that beauty in America is both grand and intimate.

Daffodil Day 2026 was promoted on WAVY TV 10's “The Hampton Roads Show,” during which Kris Carbone, GCV President, and Dawn Byrd, Daffodil Day Co-Chairman, appeared as guests. When the showroom doors opened this year, crowds included not only GCV members, but also people of all ages from the community. Showgoers were treated to more than a competition; Daffodil Day was a celebration of spring's arrival and the many ways creativity and cultivation intertwine. By uniting artistic design, horticulture, and photography under one roof, the exhibition demonstrated that a single flower can inspire countless expressions of beauty. 🌱

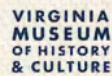
—Karen Lange, GCV Daffodil Day Chairman, Three Rivers Garden Club



Photos by Megan Ames, The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

# REVOLUTIONARY GARDENS 2026 history blooms

Garden Club of Virginia and the Virginia Museum of History & Culture celebrated Virginia's history through flowers.



The Garden Club of Virginia helped mark the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation with History Blooms at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture in Richmond Feb. 20-22, 2026.

Twenty-four GCV member clubs filled the museum with revolutionary-themed floral creations, many of which featured red, white, and blue flowers. These arrangements offered visitors a beautiful display of color, horticulture, history, and a glint of hope that spring was just around the corner.

All of the programs took place on Feb. 20, starting with the popular Flower Arranging School. Remco van Vliet, principal floral designer for the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, showcased jaw-dropping blooms in an array of bright colors. He shared photos of many events that he designed, offering tips on the mechanics of several large installations and spotlighting the wonder of candles. Several lucky guests got to take home van Vliet's designs.

The true stars of History Blooms were the inventive floral exhibits designed by GCV's member clubs. Interpreting the Revolutionary Gardens theme, arrangements included a wide array of materials, ranging from antique blue and white delftware to copper pots, farm equipment, cannons, life and drums, feathers, cotton, tobacco, oyster shells, and native grasses. Even Betsy Ross made an appearance. Several arrangements

showcased the Federal floral style, which would have been seen in the homes of the founding fathers.

Guests voted throughout the weekend for their favorite arrangement, and the "People's Choice" award went to Harborfront Garden Club in Norfolk. Second place was The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton, and third place was The James River Garden Club.

The luncheon was set amid tablescapes of red and white tulips with blue Muscari under cloches on moss beds with seeds, birds' nests, and eggs. Frances Schultz, author of *California Cooking and Southern Style: 100 Classic Recipes, Inspired Menus, and Gorgeous Table Settings*, and *The Bee Cottage Story: How I Made Muddle of Things and Decorated My Way Back to Happiness*, entertained the audience with stories highlighting the four founding first ladies. She also shared her favorite entertaining tips and memorable mishaps.

Flower lovers, gardeners, and history buffs attended the afternoon presentations. David Pippin's hands-on workshop offered expert floral design tips. Participants made arrangements with beautiful blooms and interesting containers that they took home.

History buffs and gardeners enjoyed the presentation by Peter Hatch, an authority on Thomas Jefferson's gardens at Monticello. Hatch is an author, an Honorary Member of the GCV, and serves on the Historic Landscape Fellowship Committee. He offered insights into Jefferson's revolutionary approach to food, diversity, and democracy through his garden, including his favorite vegetables, seed saving, and the labor involved. Hatch is the author of *A Rich Spot of Earth: Thomas Jefferson's Revolutionary Garden at Monticello*.



Leslie Harris, a GCV member and co-host of "The Garden Mixer" podcast, spoke about best practices in one's own yard and garden. She inspired the audience to garden with intention and avoid "intolerable acts" that can disrupt the path to good stewardship.

Attendees had the opportunity to shop at The Arranger's Market pop-up shop, which featured gardening and floral arranging items, beautiful containers, linens, and notecards, among other goods. Owner Kate Hugo Vernon shared a percentage of her sales proceeds with GCV.

GCV was honored to partner for the third time with the Virginia Museum of History & Culture to present this event, where history and horticulture meet.

**Cathy Lee, History Blooms Event Chairman, The Boxwood Garden Club**



## CONDITIONING HYDRANGEAS

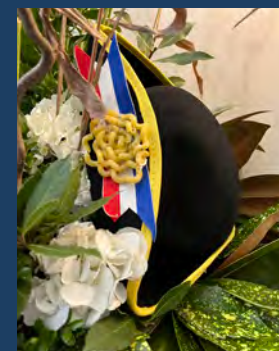
Everyone loves hydrangeas and why not? They are easy to grow, you can change the color of pink or blue blossoms by changing the acidity of the soil, and they remind us of our grandmother's flower gardens. Besides all that, they just scream summer, and who doesn't love summer?

But our love affair wanes when we put these favorites in our arrangements, only to come back tomorrow to shriveled petals. One trick to prevent this from happening is to dunk the hydrangea heads in ice water and leave them there for 30 minutes. That certainly helps extend the life; but here's a story that presents another idea:

Harborfront Garden Club's "Yankee Doodle" arrangement at History Blooms – the people's choice winner this year – featured beautiful hydrangeas purchased at Trader Joes and a Norfolk wholesaler. When the arrangement was dismantled on Sunday (three days after it was created), the hydrangeas were still going strong. Repurposed and sent home with another member, they were full of life several days later! I had to know their secret.

The Harborfront arrangers shared that they conditioned the hydrangea stems in a combination of "Floralife Quick Dip" and regular "Floralife Clear Liquid." When the stems were recut to place in the arrangement, they were then dipped in alum powder (found on the spice aisle at your grocery store). Clearly this was a winning combination, and a tip I hope you'll try.

**— Renee Gardner, GCV Artistic Design Committee Chairman, The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton**



Photos courtesy of Megan Ames, The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore and Fran King, The Garden Club of the Northern Neck

# CONSERVATION LEGISLATION DAY & SOME MAJOR GCV PRIDE

*“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” (Charles Dickens, 1859)*

The best of times? This year’s Conservation Legislative Day on Feb. 4 was the most fulfilling and productive yet for the GCV Conservation and Beautification Committee. Contributing to our success were our weekly preparatory meetings, the clear message we crafted in the “GCV Positions on 2026 Legislative Issues” (available on the GCV website), and Virginia Conservation Network’s hosting of the event.

The event kicked off the preceding evening with a dinner at the Kent-Valentine House, where members of the Conservation Legislative Subcommittee gathered to prepare for the next day, fostering camaraderie with like-minded people. Our featured speaker, Governor Spanberger’s Secretary of Forestry and Agriculture, Katie Frazier, was the highlight of the evening.

On Conservation Legislative Day, GCV members traveled by bus to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, giving us time to build enthusiasm and review our strategy. After a breakfast buffet, GCV members from throughout Virginia walked the short distance to the General Assembly Building across from the State Capitol, scouting out offices of senators and delegates who sit on committees of high interest as described in the



position paper. Speaking to one’s district legislators was essential!

The worst of times? Despite our well-coordinated efforts, GCV’s “Native Bee Bill” (SB155) failed in the 2026 Virginia General Assembly. As a refresher, in 2024, Virginia’s apiarists sponsored a bill naming the European honeybee the official Virginia state pollinator. While it is an especially important crop and orchard pollinator, we at GCV are intent on spotlighting a native Virginia pollinator and picked the workhorse Brown-belted Bumblebee in our effort to shine a light on native wildlife. The eco-services provided by native pollinators are not duplicated by exotic pollinators,

and their pollination abilities are distinctly different from non-native bees.

In support of the bill, GCV members testified before the Senate Subcommittee, and our bill passed the Senate with broad bipartisan support. The legislation then moved to the House of Delegates where the bee bill died, having not been brought to a vote. Undeterred, longtime member of the Conservation and Beautification Committee, Carla Passarello, stated: “GCV’s ‘Native Bee Bill’ (SB155) was the culmination of the volunteer efforts of our members over many years. It enjoyed strong bipartisan and conservation community support, and we plan to re-introduce it during the next legislative session.”

We know that speaking up for conservation legislation, combined with the gravitas of the GCV, can move mountains. The Conservation Legislative Subcommittee, supported by GCV members, continues to strengthen our resolve around these critical conservation issues. 🌱

—GCV Conservation Committee members Anna Aquino, The Boxwood Garden Club and Carla Passarello, Dolley Madison Garden Club



## IN A NUTSHELL: NOTABLE LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES FOR THE GCV THIS YEAR

Despite the “Native bee bill” being left in committee, there were several notable legislative successes this session related to PFAS (forever chemicals) and invasive species management!

### OFFICIALLY SIGNED INTO LAW IN APRIL:

- **HB88:** Manage roadside invasive plants in VDOT rights-of-way
- **HB109:** Close the invasive plant commercial viability loophole
- **SB89 / HB388:** Expand powers of public service districts to include invasive plant control
- **SB163:** Allow volunteers to assist with invasive plant control on state lands
- **SB138:** Require PFAS monitoring of industrial wastewater and publicly owned water treatment facilities
- **SB386 / HB1443 and HB1072:** Require additional testing for PFAS in land applications of sewage sludge

Your voice as a member of GCV matters throughout the legislative process. Together, we will continue to work to protect Virginia’s beauty and the extraordinary gifts of nature that we enjoy throughout the commonwealth.

*Photos courtesy of Virginia Conservation Network and Diane Thomas, GCV Conservation and Beautification Committee Chairman, The Garden Club of Alexandria*



# Intertwined

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT ARTHUR A. SHURCLIFF AND THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

by Laura Francis, GCV Second Vice President, The Hunting Creek Garden Club

“They” say that history repeats itself. “They” may just be right!

In its nearly 100-year journey to restore and preserve the historic landscapes of the commonwealth, the Garden Club of Virginia has encountered many twists and turns in the road. GCV’s generosity has left its mark on small gardens, as well as monumental landscapes enlisting the expertise of renowned landscape architects. One such architect was Arthur A. Shurcliff, whose collaboration with the Garden Club of Virginia is about to come full circle.

Born in Boston, Mass. (1889-1957), Shurcliff grew up in privilege, summering on Nantucket and in the White Mountains. He earned an engineering degree from MIT and studied at Harvard, where art history, surveying, horticulture, and design led him to an eight-year employment with the Olmsted Brothers landscape design firm. In fact, Shurcliff and Olmsted, Jr. founded the first four-year degree program in landscape architecture offered at Harvard.

In 1904, Shurcliff started his own landscape architecture firm. Success came quickly and securely with significant commissions from the city of Boston, where urban planning, roads, parks, the zoo, reservoirs, and municipal areas even now bear the stamp of Shurcliff’s prescient and creative urban landscape solutions.

In the Country Place Era, 1890-1930, wealthy Americans commissioned landscape architects to emulate European gardens, creating extensive displays on their country estates. Shurcliff was one of these architects. Among his designs are two private estates connected to GCV: Waverley Hill in Staunton, built in 1929 by

former GCV President Mrs. Herbert M. Smith, and Grelen, an estate in Orange, with its Shurcliff-designed trademark boxwood allée, lovingly preserved by a GCV member and her husband.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. expanded Shurcliff’s renown worldwide when he hired the landscape architect for “the restoration and recreation of gardens, landscape and town planning of Colonial Williamsburg” — a commission he held from 1928 until his retirement in 1941. The Colonial Revival Garden movement was born.

Following his presentation on colonial gardens at the 1929 GCV Annual Meeting, Shurcliff was swept up in the world of GCV restorations — GCV commissioned him for several noted projects. Between 1930 and 1936, Shurcliff oversaw the restoration of the elaborate formal gardens at Stratford Hall and created colonial interpretive landscape plans for Wilton and Smith’s Fort. In 1939, he worked with GCV on additional plans for the churchyard at Bruton Parish Church.

And now, in 2026, GCV is providing a revised landscape plan based on Shurcliff’s design for Wilton, and is partnering with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects to reestablish the historic Governor’s Palace Bowling Green designed by Shurcliff during his 1930s work for Colonial Williamsburg.

The legacy of the Arthur Shurcliff-GCV collaborations lives on — for as we all know, a garden is always made for the next generation.

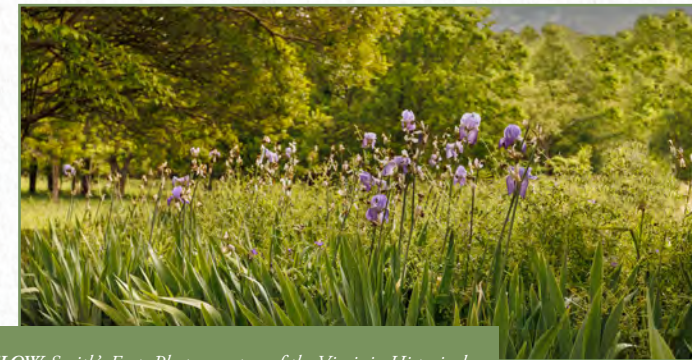
ABOVE: Arthur A. Shurcliff Photo Courtesy of John D. Rockefeller, Jr Library, Special Collections, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation



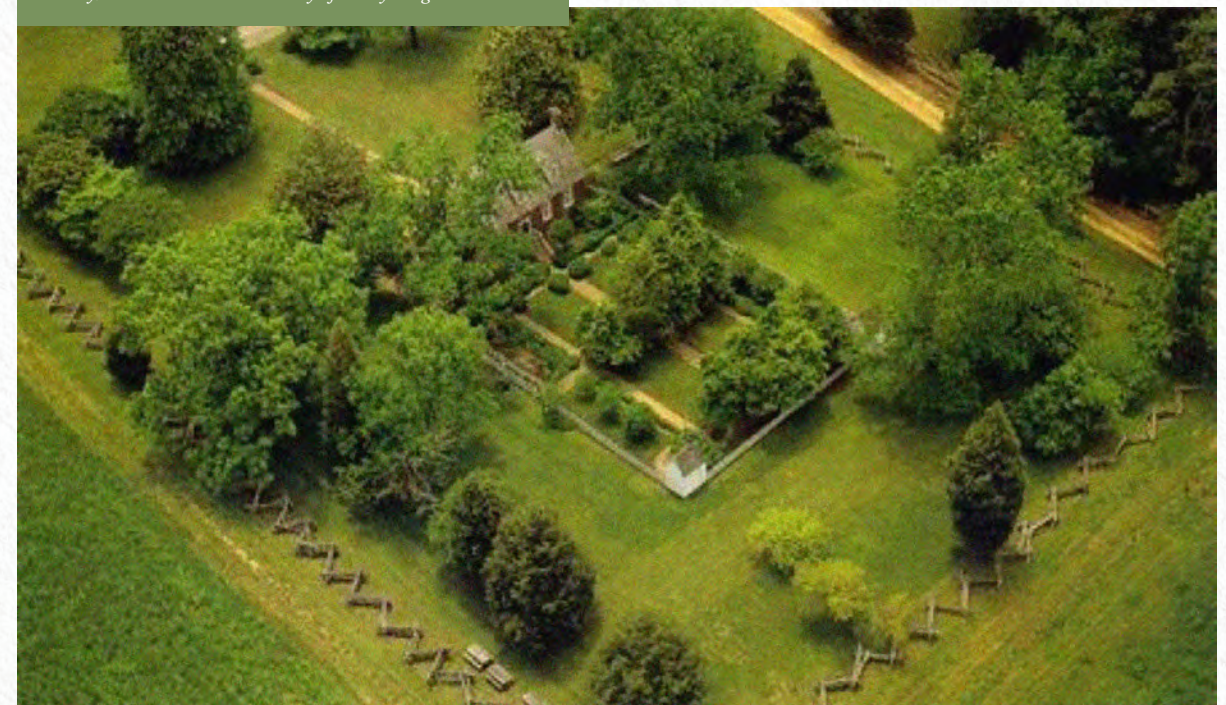
## Smith's Fort, Surry County

### SMITH'S FORT

The GCV was asked to provide a 17th-century landscape plan for the property, where Captain John Smith built a fort as a refuge should Jamestown be attacked. Shurcliff undertook this project in 1934, initially supervising archaeological excavations of the site, which revealed foundations for numerous buildings (including the fort site) and paths.



BELOW: Smith's Fort, Photo courtesy of the Virginia Historical Society; ABOVE— Photos courtesy of Sandy Geiger



# Stratford Hall, Westmoreland County

## STRATFORD HALL

In 1929, the GCV led the restoration of the gardens at Stratford Hall, ancestral home of the Lee family and birthplace of Robert E. Lee, on the south banks of the Potomac River. The estate had remarkable vistas, broad lawns, a generous garden plot, and an orchard. Shurcliff undertook the initial archaeological investigations, declaring "there is no ancient place in Virginia which would be more interesting to restore or more fruitful of results." (*Follow the Green Arrow I*)



# Wilton House, Westhampton, Richmond



**WILTON**  
In 1933, the GCV was approached to provide a landscape plan for the new site of Wilton. Shurcliff reinterpreted a colonial falling garden, with a series of terraces, leading from the entrance gate to the house to the gardens and river beyond.

ABOVE: Photo courtesy of Roger Foley; BELOW: Shurcliff Drawing courtesy of John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library, Special Collections, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation; ALL OTHERS: Photos courtesy of Wilton



- WILTON -  
DIAGRAMATIC SKETCH SHOWING APPROXIMATE ARRANGEMENT OF PLANTING AS SHOWN ON PLANTING PLAN DATED FEBRUARY 18, 1936.  
ARTHUR A. SHURCLIFF - LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT.  
11 BEACON STREET - BOSTON - MASS.  
FEB. 18, 1936

# Governor's Palace Gardens, Colonial Williamsburg

## COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG'S GOVERNOR'S PALACE GARDENS

In the 1930s, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation began to restore the Palace gardens. Arthur Shurcliff meticulously planned the restoration, based on archaeological discoveries, documentary evidence, and examples of contemporary garden style in England and North America.



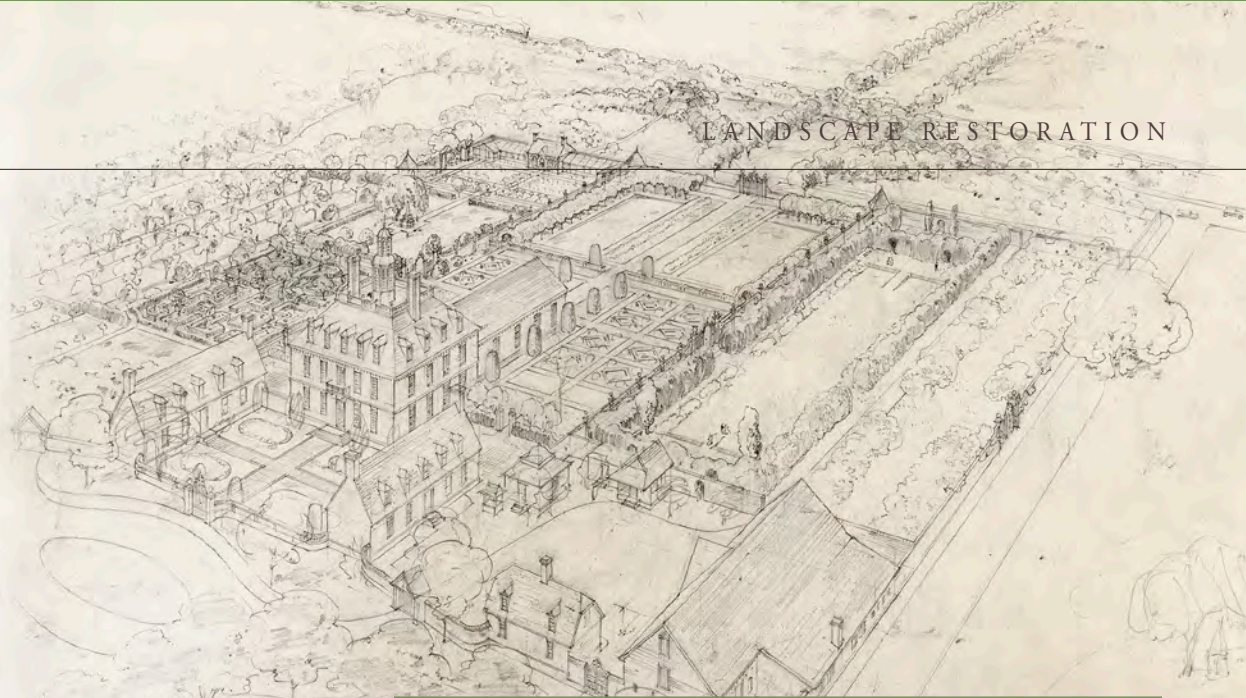
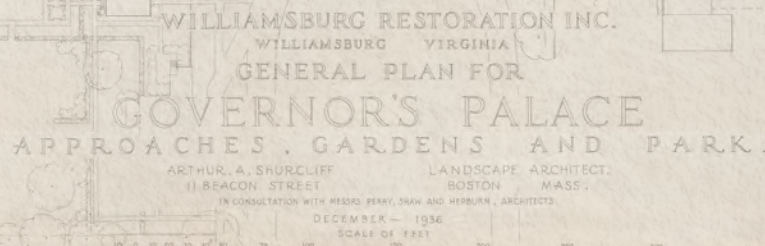
ABOVE: Photo courtesy of Diane Ginsberg; BELOW: Shurcliff Drawing of Governor's Palace Gardens Landscape Plan - Special Collections, John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation



ABOVE: East Garden Governor's Palace - Special Collections, John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation; BELOW: courtesy of Diane Ginsberg



# Colonial Williamsburg



RIGHT: Photo courtesy of Wayne Reynolds, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation; ABOVE: Bird's Eye View of Palace Gardens Looking Northwest - Bowling Green and Orchard on the Right of Image - Special Collections, John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

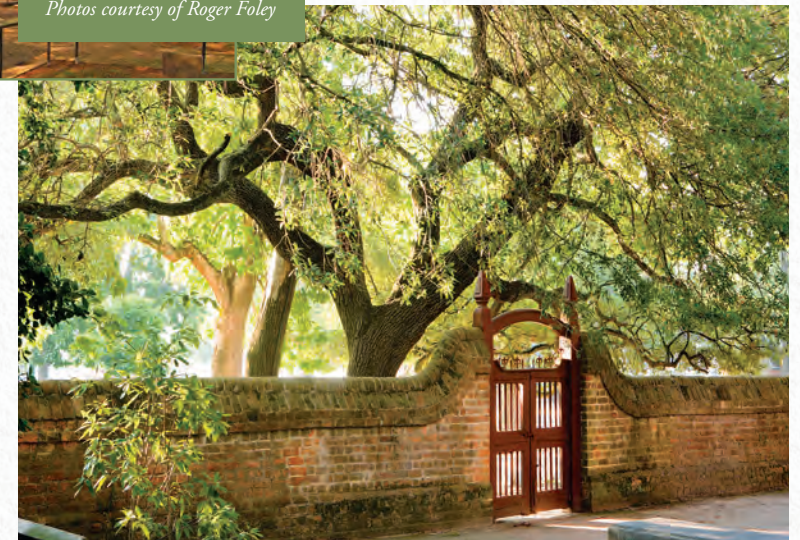


# Bruton Parish Church, Colonial Williamsburg

Photos courtesy of Roger Foley

## BRUTON PARISH CHURCH

In 1939, building on work done previously by GCV to enhance the churchyard, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation commissioned Shurcliff to create a landscape plan including new walkways and replacing flagstone walks with brick. Additional trees and shrubs, including American holly, Virginia red cedar, crape myrtle, and English yew, were planted, along with a ground cover of periwinkle.





## The James River Garden Club

RICHMOND

GCV DISTRICT 1

Nancy Linz, the initial driving force behind the designation of April as National Native Plant Month, presented to The James River Garden Club members at their March program. Recounting her legislative journey, Nancy also spoke about her love of native plants, with spicebush and eastern redbud among her favorites, and her observations about the unique ways each contributes to its environment. JRGC is fortunate to have her as a new affiliate member. Welcome to Virginia, Nancy!

— **Tenley Beazley**



## Dolley Madison Garden Club

ORANGE



GCV DISTRICT 2

## The Augusta Garden Club

STAUNTON

Staunton's Augusta Garden Club organized a public meeting in February to educate roughly 100 local citizens about fighting the invasive spotted lanternfly.

Three expert speakers addressed ways to diminish lanternfly habitat, enhance its

predators' population and treat an infestation: Jason Cooper, Virginia Cooperative Extension agent; Chris Anhold, Bartlett Tree Experts; and Tim Jordan, Shenandoah Vineyard Services.

To honor the speakers, AGC donated children's books in their names to the local public library system.

— **Sheila Byrd Carmichael**



In 2019, Dolley Madison Garden Club commissioned a sculpture to celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding. The lotus sculpture was given to the town of Orange and placed in the downtown Taylor Park fountain. The park has been a longtime community project for DMGC. Unfortunately, the sculpture had to be removed when it began to show corrosion. Club member Suzanne Aiello came to the rescue and spearheaded its restoration. Still in Taylor Park, the sculpture now presides over the shrubs, flowers, and everyone enjoying the park.

— **Heather McCullough**



## The Garden Club of Gloucester and Mathews

GLOUCESTER & MATHEWS

GCV DISTRICT 3

Led by board member Lynn Hornsby, The Garden Club of Gloucester and Mathews collected over 200 garments, including new and gently used coats, jackets, hats, gloves, and scarves for men, women, and children in Gloucester and Mathews counties.

The Beautification Committee, chaired by Vicki Dreelin, assembled live wreaths and 225 linear feet of pine roping for the Courthouse historic buildings. All fresh greenery was used, with period-appropriate decorations. The committee also created wreaths for the residents of Sanders Assisted Living.



We welcomed guests at our December Holiday Lunch. Arrangements were not judged and there was no program — just fun and camaraderie.

— **Lynne Manning**

## The Hampton Roads Garden Club

HAMPTON ROADS

The Hampton Roads Garden Club brought festive flair and community spirit together on Feb. 17 with its vibrant Mardi Gras social and fundraiser.

A highlight of the evening was the silent auction, where members generously donated an impressive array of items. The tables were brimming with treasures, from beautifully crafted paintings by members to thoughtfully curated gift baskets. Guests eagerly browsed and bid, making the auction a great success.

The event was expertly organized by the club's Fundraising Committee — Teresa Robinson, Val Bowen, Donna Herbert, Carrie Karnes,



GCV DISTRICT 4

## The Garden Study Club

MARTINSVILLE

The Garden Study Club of Martinsville created theme-related tablescapes as a part of their March meeting, using skills and creative ideas shared in a fabulous and informative tablescapes demonstration presented in February by Laura Francis of The Hunting Creek Garden Club of Alexandria.

— **Jennifer Reis**





GCV DISTRICT 4

## The Garden Club of Danville

DANVILLE

Spring has arrived, bringing a renewed sense of energy and excitement. Our late winter and early spring season has blossomed with creativity and meaningful community connections, as well as dedicated restoration work in the Grove Street Cemetery gardens.

Our talented arrangement committee brought beauty to life with a stunning display at the annual History Blooms event in Richmond, and took great joy in experiencing the inspiring creations of fellow garden clubs.

Members also came together for the second annual reforestation project at Ballou Park, planting trees, sharing knowledge, and nurturing a greener future for our community.

The enthusiasm continued as our members turned out in full "swarm" for Danville's first annual Bee City USA public meeting. With vibrant, spring-inspired arrangements, educational outreach, and engaging conversations, the event was a wonderful success and a promising sign of growth in the years ahead.

This season, we refreshed pollinator beds and preserved the Grove Street Cemetery fencing in preparation for Historic Garden Week. Together, we are cultivating beauty, community and lasting impact, one bloom at a time.

— **Amanda Griffith**



GCV DISTRICT 5

## The Garden Club of Alexandria

ALEXANDRIA

Having celebrated 100 years of The Garden Club of Alexandria in December 2025, members are demonstrating a strong commitment to our next century and enthusiastically advancing the club's mission of promoting gardening, floral arts, environmental stewardship, and civic beautification.

In January 2026, Conservation and Beautification Committee Chairman Diane Thomas coordinated GCV's program on data centers in Virginia, exploring the challenges created by rapid development and the potential of agrivoltaic solutions.

February brought additional achievements, with members exhibiting in multiple disciplines at state and national flower shows. Lillian Nash and Amy Moyer created a stunning arrangement for History Blooms, while Jordan Richards, Twig Murray and Hattie Monks showcased floral arrangements, botanical arts and horticulture at the Atlanta Botanical Garden Flower Show and the Philadelphia Flower Show.

— **Ruth Brightbill**



## The Garden Club of Fairfax

FAIRFAX

In celebration of its centennial, The Garden Club of Fairfax gathered in March at Historic Blenheim in the City of Fairfax, a property once owned by club member Barbara Scott, who had a deep love for

growing daffodils. Our guest speaker, Kathy Welsh, a daffodil expert, accredited daffodil judge, and past president of the American Daffodil Society, shared engaging insights on the



13 divisions of daffodils and best practices for cultivating them. The day concluded with a special tour of Blenheim, led by club member and docent Phyllis Lingenfelter. — **Robin Walker**

## The Little Garden Club of Winchester

WINCHESTER

The Little Garden Club of Winchester held a candlestick arrangement master class for its March meeting, led by one of its own members, Mary Gardiner. Each member brought a candlestick or candelabra of her choosing, along with plant materials and fresh flowers. Mary supplied three-inch round Oasis and demonstrated the best

technique for making these arrangements, which can be concentric for dining tables or one-sided for fireplace mantels. She suggested using a variety of colors while choosing one color to be the dominant "pop" so the arrangement stands out. She also reminded the group to make sure the candlestick is well polished if using real silver. Everyone enjoyed the activity and took home their creations at the conclusion of the meeting.

— **Sarah Browning**





GCV DISTRICT 5

### The Garden Club of Warren County

WARREN COUNTY

The Garden Club of Warren County welcomed Theresa DeFluri to its March meeting for a hands-on floral arranging workshop. Members learned valuable tips and left with lovely arrangements.

Melissa Davidson and Nancy Kiel, members of the club's newly formed Environmental Stewardship Committee, attended Conservation Legislative Day in Richmond on Feb. 4. The extensive information they reported back has inspired members to become more involved.

Sarah Trussell and Beth DeBergh represented the club at History Blooms with their beautiful arrangement.

The new Bee City Committee also reports it has begun meeting with the town to move forward with Front Royal becoming an official Bee City USA affiliate.

— **Ashby O'Malley**



Melissa and Nancy with Timmy French, 1st Senatorial District.



Melissa and Nancy with Bill Wiley, Virginia House Delegate for the 32nd District.



GCV DISTRICT 6

### The Princess Anne Garden Club

VIRGINIA BEACH

Wanting to schedule a class for "newbie arrangers" prior to Historic Garden Week arranging day, the Princess Anne Garden Club hosted an "Arrangers Workshop" in early February to hone members' skills with flowers. Although the workshop was designed primarily to instruct novice arrangers in the do's and don'ts of good design, many seasoned arrangers attended to soak in

the creative energy shared throughout the event. Several mini demonstrations were given by experienced members to spark creativity and set the tone for unique creations.

Flowers were purchased and conditioned prior to the event, and arrangers were encouraged to bring greens from their home gardens, along with the containers they would use for their creations for our HGW Tour. Instructions and design suggestions were provided by veteran arrangers who were on hand to answer questions and guide novices.



Betsy Linn, PAGC Co-Chairman for GCV Historic Garden Tour.

Many thanks go to PAGC member Alison Swan for coordinating the event in her art studio and purchasing the flowers. It was a great learning experience, with plenty of creativity and new friendships formed through flowers. — **Katie Hand**



### Leesburg Garden Club

LEESBURG

In early December, Leesburg Garden Club joined forces for our holiday Greens Workshop, creating decorations for town facilities, as we have done for decades. We designed ribboned swags for Leesburg's courthouse's antique, swinging garden gates, along with wreaths for doors at the Thomas Balch Library, the downtown post office, and Dodona Manor, the home of General George C. Marshall and his wife, Katherine, in the 1940s and '50s. Today, the house and property are home to the George

C. Marshall International Center. All in all, it was a delightful day of club camaraderie and community service to the town of Leesburg.

At our regularly scheduled February meeting, we were delighted to welcome Katie Harvard, our District 5 Director-at-Large. As our guest speaker, Katie spoke about her role as a liaison between the Garden Club of Virginia and the nine member clubs in District 5. Katie, on the left, is pictured with incoming Leesburg Garden Club President Tracy Coffing.

— **Judy Gerow**



### The Elizabeth River Garden Club

TIDEWATER

Ladies of the Elizabeth River Garden Club had a great time working together on the club's entry for the Garden Club of Virginia's Daffodil Day, while teaching a future flower arranger the rules of mechanics.

— **Jane Cherry**

### Winchester-Clarke Garden Club

CLARKE COUNTY

To brighten a cold February meeting, we gathered at the beautiful, local James Charles Winery & Vineyard in Winchester. What better subject to explore at a vineyard than the spotted lanternfly, the bane of vintners?

Our discussion covered the origin of the invasive pest, as well as methods to help eradicate it. News flash: Milkweed attracts them and,

once they begin feeding, many will die.

During the meeting, two winged visitors handed out large fly swatters to attendees. A wonderful wine tasting followed, thanks to owner Della Bogaty.

— **Kathy Kobishyn**



### The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

EASTERN SHORE

The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore ushered in spring in grand style on March 9 with its second annual "Fashion in Bloom" luncheon event. Guests gathered at Bay Creek's Coach House Tavern in Cape Charles for a sip-and-shop with local vendors,

followed by lunch and a fashion show. Eight club members modeled new spring looks by Love Letters, a local Cape Charles shop.

A fun time was had by all, and proceeds from the event benefited community projects supported by The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore.

— **Megan Ames**

# Melinda Bell Morgan

THE WILLIAMSBURG GARDEN CLUB

For Melinda Bell Morgan, a life shaped by movement and adaptability has led her to a place that feels deeply rooted in connection, creativity, and purpose.

Growing up in an Air Force family, Melinda moved frequently, living in eight different places and attending three elementary schools along the way. Rather than seeing this as disruptive, she credits those early experiences with teaching her how to connect with people, build relationships, and adapt quickly. After college, she moved to Washington, D.C. and began her career with the federal government as a financial analyst, expanding her work into human resources and technology before ultimately serving as finance director at the U.S. Department of Justice. "It was more than a career; it was an adventure," she reflects.

In 2016, she and her husband, John, retired and relocated to Williamsburg to be closer to family. With deep family roots in the area, the move felt like a return as much as a new beginning. "Being here feels like continuing a meaningful family legacy," she shares. Her grandmother served as president of The Williamsburg Garden Club from 1941 to 1943, and her mother was also a member.

Melinda's introduction to The Williamsburg Garden Club came through neighbors and friends



who invited her to attend study groups and meetings. That warm welcome, combined with the club's energy and camaraderie, made an immediate impression. She recalls one of her earliest experiences as a new member, attending a program at York River State Park, where she learned about the Garden Club of Virginia's conservation efforts. The experience stayed with her, and she still returns to the park to hike and kayak.

From the beginning, Melinda found the club to be dynamic and engaging, with members who balance deep knowledge of horticulture and floral design with a genuine sense of fun. "If I had not joined the garden club, I would not have met half of these people," she says.

Her professional background has translated seamlessly into her work within both her club and the Garden Club of Virginia. With experience in finance, operations and project management, Melinda brings structure to creative ideas and a thoughtful, problem-solving approach to leadership. She has served in numerous roles within The Williamsburg Garden Club, including Historic Garden Week chairman and, most recently, first and second vice president, and will serve as president for the coming two years. At the Garden Club of Virginia level, she has served as the Historic Garden Week East Region Representative.

Melinda is especially energized by creating programs and initiatives that strengthen both member engagement and community connection. As program chairman, she worked to thoughtfully integrate study groups into club programming, creating a more cohesive and enriching experience. She has also brought creativity and inclusivity to the forefront through initiatives such as a "Men's Challenge" floral design event, and a community-based project supporting pet adoption efforts with handmade floral collars for the adoptable animals.

Her impact is also evident in membership growth. As first vice president, she helped lead a recruitment effort that brought 13 new members into the club, all of whom are actively engaged and contributing fresh ideas and energy. She is also proud of her club's Historic Garden Week tour being featured on the cover of the *Guidebook* during the special 250th anniversary year of our country. This



ABOVE: Gentlemen enjoying the "Men's Challenge" design event. Their creativity surprised us!

recognition has elevated visibility for their region.

At home, gardening is both a joy and a creative outlet. Melinda has cultivated a landscape that includes native plants, natural landscaping, and pollinator gardens, with an intentional focus on sustainability and creating a vibrant environment. She notes with humor that finding balance with local wildlife is an ongoing process. "The deer love my yard; it is a buffet."

For Melinda, garden club represents far more than horticulture. "It is about connection, creativity, and continuous learning," she explains. The relationships she has built, the opportunity to try new things such as interpretive floral design, and the broader impact of the Garden Club of Virginia's conservation and restoration efforts all contribute to a deep sense of purpose.

She believes that what makes Garden Club of Virginia unique is its ability to honor tradition while continuing to evolve. From Historic Garden Week to innovative

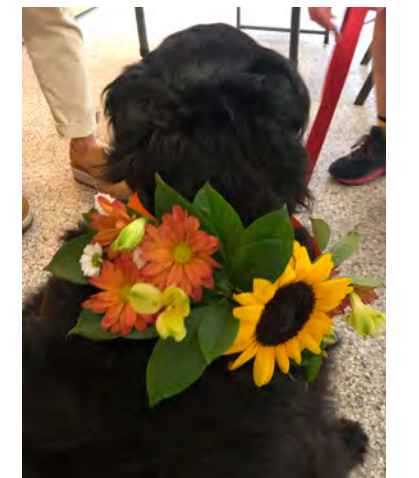
educational programs, the organization remains committed to horticulture, conservation, restoration, and sustainability in ways that resonate across generations.

What she values most about her fellow members is the genuine sense of friendship and support. "There is a spirit of fun, generosity, and shared purpose," she says. "The people in our club have expanded my world and created a true sense of belonging."

Looking ahead, Melinda is excited by the continued opportunities for lifelong learning, new friendships, and meaningful impact. She encourages anyone considering joining to take the time to explore all that garden club offers. "It can broaden your horizons and help you grow in ways you did not expect," she says. "It is a chance to be part of something larger than yourself."

For Melinda, garden club is "one of the best opportunities to discover more about oneself, try new things, and build lifelong relationships that truly matter." 🌿

— Nancy Inman, Albemarle Garden Club



ABOVE: Wearable Art collars that we made helped several dogs get adopted!

## Remembering the Members we Lost in 2025

In Memoriam lists Garden Club of Virginia members who have passed away within the past year, compiled from names submitted by club presidents. We thank these members for their gifts of time and talent and their dedication to the Garden Club of Virginia, and extend our condolences to their families and loved ones.

### Albemarle Garden Club

Mary McNaughton Lamb Laing

### The Garden Club of Alexandria

Elsie Otto Lang

### The Ashland Garden Club

Lyde Arrott Longaker  
Elizabeth "Betty" Bane Strader Shamburger

### The Augusta Garden Club

Carol Shannon Cowherd  
Lindsay Kathleen Howerton Curren

### The Blue Ridge Garden Club

Marguerite Gignilliat Old

### The Boxwood Garden Club

Nancy Fleshman Bowles

### The Charlottesville Garden Club

Margaret Price McLaughlin Grove

### Dolley Madison Garden Club

Bobbie Lewis Carson Davies  
Elizabeth Frayser Kipps  
Barbara Hinrichs Moriority  
Frances Marshall Purcell

### The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

Linda Bagwell Custis

### The Elizabeth River Garden Club

Martha Jean Morris  
Beverley Meredith Pickett Kirchmier  
Anne Barbour Waldo Schwab  
Jean Elizabeth Hogge Shackelford

### The Garden Club of Fairfax

Ann Farr Lewis

### Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club

Agnes "Di" diZerega Cook

### Gabriella Garden Club

Henrietta Bell Abercrombie

### The Garden Study Club

Martha Louise Wilkens Crawley  
Elizabeth "Betty" Messick Holsinger  
Linda Wall Isley  
Betty Lou Barnes Pigg  
Carol Elaine McDaniel Ryder

### The Garden Club of Gloucester and Mathews

Letitia "Tish" Montague Grant

### The Huntington Garden Club

Lucyle Humphries Macon

### The James River Garden Club

Mary Ballou Handy Williams  
Roberta "Berta" Hamilton Bryan Bocoock

### Leesburg Garden Club

Jill Predmore Beach  
Agnes "Di" diZerega Cook

### The Lynchburg Garden Club

Mary Williamson Feagans  
Nollner Morrisett Watts

### The Martinsville Garden Club

Ruth Jones Bassett

### The Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula

Catherine "Trink" Stewart McCarthy

### Mill Mountain Garden Club

Christine Thugut Bradshaw  
Carolyn McLeod Noland

### The Garden Club of Norfolk

Rebecca Jane Marsden O'Keefe

### The Garden Club of the Northern Neck

Nancy Ziegler Brown  
Catherine Stacey Carden  
Elsie Otto Lang  
Martha Ann Ailor Thornton

### The Petersburg Garden Club

Leslie "Betsy" Maynard Booth  
Dr. Virginia Neaves Rose Cherry  
Etta Donnan "Donni" Mann Lynn

### The Princess Anne Garden Club

Mary Scott "Scottie" Whitehead Baker  
Virginia "Ginny" Wills Baxter

### The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club

Sheila Eddy Baker  
E. Bernice "Bernie" Miller Kenneweg  
Alice Turner Pratt Moter

### Rivanna Garden Club

Joanne Terenzio Blakemore

### Three Chopt Garden Club

Leslie Jones Power

### The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton

Mary Meade Trice Davenport  
Camilla Hyde Moffatt

### The Virginia Beach Garden Club

Constance "Connie" Weiser Gregg

### The Garden Club of Warren County

Jane Angus White

### The Warrenton Garden Club

Martha "Ellie" Joy Hamm Spencer

### The Williamsburg Garden Club

Ida Smith Hall  
Beverley Adele Pinotti

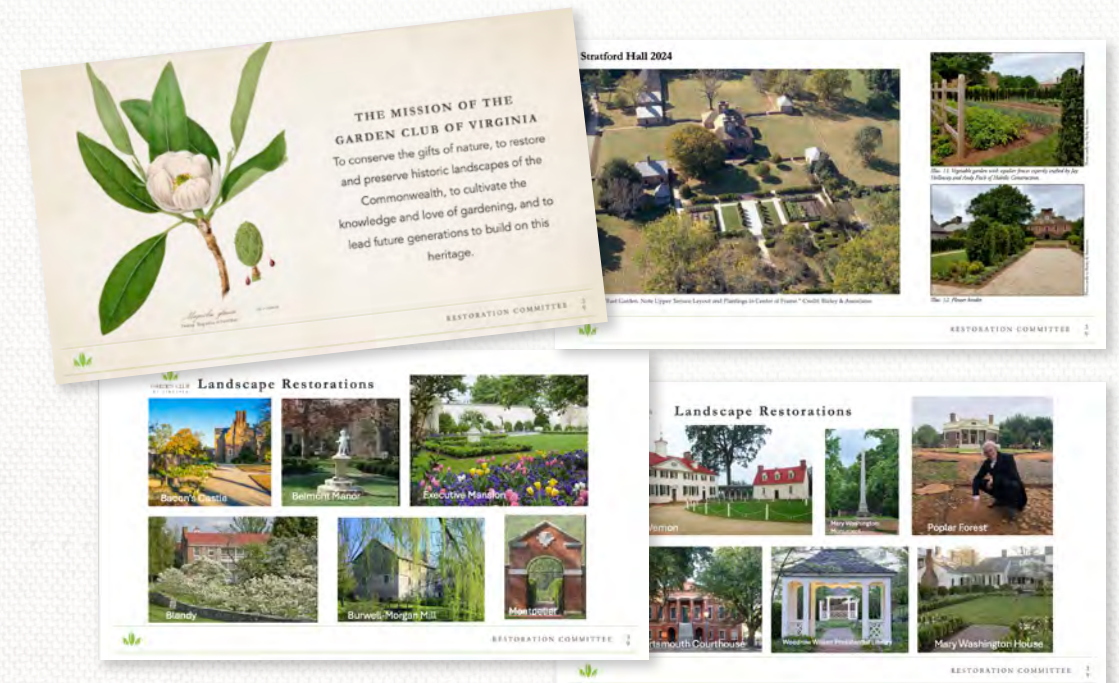
## SAVE THE DATES

- May 19-21** | Annual Meeting, Hosted by Mill Mountain Garden Club, Roanoke
- June 1** | Award Nomination Deadlines for: Conservation Educator Award, Dugdale Award for Meritorious Achievement in Conservation, The Helen and Tayloe Murphy Conservation in Leadership in Government Award
- June 4** | Presidents Day, Kent-Valentine House
- June 9-10** | Horticulture Field Day, Charlottesville
- June 15** | *Journal* Submission Deadline — Summer Edition
- June 16-17** | Lily Show, Richmond
- June 25** | HGW Boot Camp, Kent-Valentine House
- August 14** | Photography Summer School
- September 8** | *Journal* Submission Deadline — Fall Edition
- September 23** | Conservation Forum, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond
- October 20-21** | Board of Governors Meeting, Hosted by The Franklin Garden Club, Franklin

## THE GCV LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROGRAM EXPLAINED

*Book a presenter today for your club's next meeting!*

The Restoration Committee has a new presentation and slide show that provides great insights into this important pillar of GCV's mission. Committee members are happy to make presentations at club meetings or other special programs. Please contact **Janet Rosser** at [jdrosser89@gmail.com](mailto:jdrosser89@gmail.com) to inquire and book a presenter.





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