

The
YEAR IN
REVIEW



GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT



DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

As we look back on this year, I am filled with gratitude for the dedication, generosity, and spirit that define the Garden Club of Virginia. Across the commonwealth, our members have continued to honor the beauty of Virginia's landscapes while advancing the mission that has guided us for more than a century.

This year's accomplishments reflect both the strength of our traditions and our willingness to grow. Through educational offerings, conservation initiatives, and the enduring success of Historic Garden Week, we have welcomed visitors, shared knowledge, supported restoration, and deepened the appreciation for Virginia's public landscapes.

We have continued to advocate for conservation, native plants, clean water, open spaces, and sustainable practices in our own gardens and communities. Whether through lectures and workshops, local club projects, or the quiet daily choices of individual members, the Garden Club of Virginia remains a powerful voice for the natural world and for the responsibility we share in protecting it.

None of this would be possible without the extraordinary commitment of our members, donors, partners, and staff. Your time, talent, leadership, hospitality, and financial support sustain every part of our work. Because of you, the Garden Club of Virginia continues to flourish.

As we celebrate this *Year in Review*, let us also look ahead with confidence and imagination. May we continue to build on the legacy entrusted to us, deepen our impact across the commonwealth, and invite others to discover the joy, fellowship, and responsibility found in gardening, conservation, and restoration.

With sincere appreciation,

Kris Carbone

Kris Carbone, GCV President, 2024-2026

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA



DEAR FRIENDS OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA,

One of the many joys of working at the Garden Club of Virginia is meeting interesting and talented club members across the commonwealth. When visiting, I am eager to take guided tours to see the many ways our clubs have enhanced and improved outdoor spaces in their communities.

The projects that our member clubs undertake vary widely. From the wildflower garden at Mill Mountain in Roanoke to the Living Green Wall at the Brock Environmental Center in Virginia Beach, and from the public green space at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond to, most recently, Dodona Manor in Leesburg, these projects reflect our members' passion for preserving, conserving, and beautifying treasured spaces.

Donors and supporters like you strengthen GCV's ability to offer programs that help to enrich our 3,400 members, 48 member clubs, and communities throughout Virginia. For example, for almost 50 years we've given money to GCV clubs through the Common Wealth Award and, since 2009, the Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award. These competitive awards are vetted by members who serve on committees, and the clubs vote for their choice.

Competitive awards are a small part of the programmatic offerings for our members. Thanks to your support, our members are paying it forward in spades, making a lasting impact on the spaces and places we treasure.

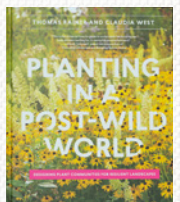
With gratitude,

Andrea Butler

Andrea Butler, Executive Director

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

Cover photo features design by James Hitchmough & Sarah Price for the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Photo by Sarah Price. Courtesy of *Planting in a Post-Wild World* by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West. www.thomasrainer.com/book





THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA
GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THESE

Generous Donors

FROM JULY 1, 2025 TO JUNE 30, 2026

THE 1920 SOCIETY

*The following donors are also members of The 1920 Society.
This leadership in giving strengthens our ability
to plan boldly and make a lasting impact. Thank you.*

THE BELVEDERE

\$50,000 AND ABOVE

Josephine J. Miller

REGENCY TERRACE

\$25,000 TO \$49,999

Elisabeth Reed Carter Charitable Lead Trust*
The Robert & Bessie Carter Foundation*

TOPIARY GARDEN

\$15,000 \$24,999

Matthew & Genevieve Mezzanotte Foundation*

ALPINE GARDEN

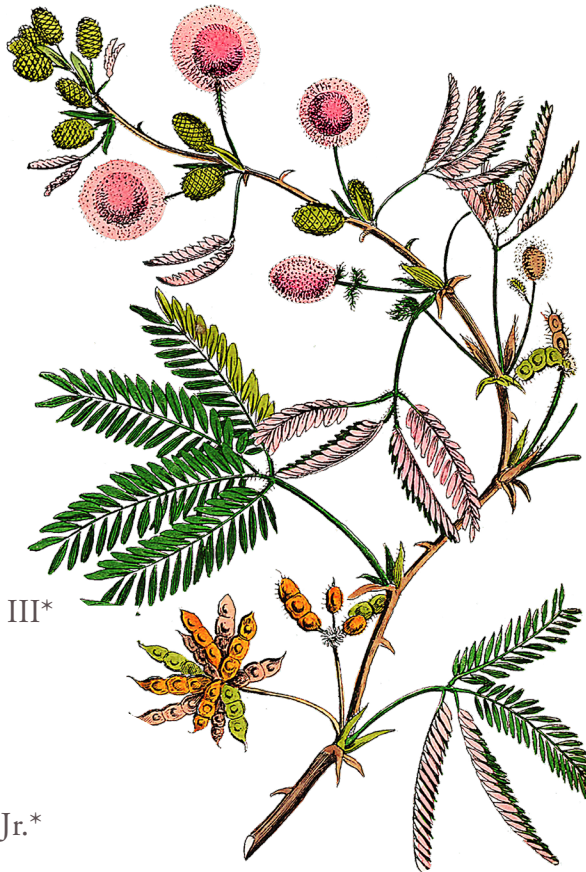
\$5,000 TO \$14,999

Elizabeth P. Miller*
Mraz Charitable Trust*
Oakwood Foundation*

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

*All President's Parterre Donors are also members of The 1920 Society,
which honors donors who have given \$1,000 or more annually.*

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Glenna Graves*
Betsy Butzner Greene*
Julie Grover*
Linda and Ted Hanson*
Liz S. Hart

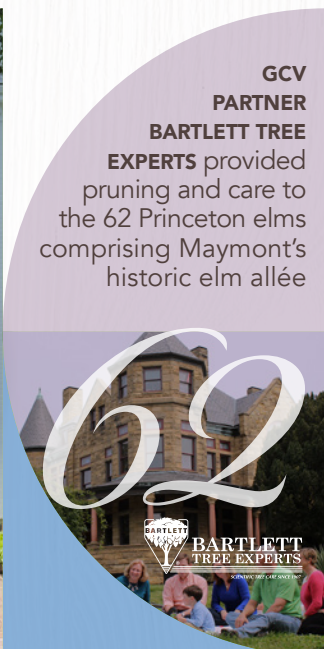


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Robin Walker
Rene Haeger Wenleder
Cabell Goolsby West*
Dr. and Mrs. David C. Whitehead, Jr.*



**HISTORIC
GARDEN WEEK 2026
WELCOMED**

22,751
attendees from
49 states and
15 countries



**GCV
PARTNER
BARTLETT TREE
EXPERTS** provided
pruning and care to
the 62 Princeton elms
comprising Maymont's
historic elm allée

62



**THE KENT-VALENTINE
HOUSE TURNED**
180 years old

180

**GCV MEMBER CLUBS
WELCOMED**

218
new members

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



**THE KENT-VALENTINE
HOUSE HOSTED**
48 meetings,
encompassing
1,317
guests and more
via Zoom

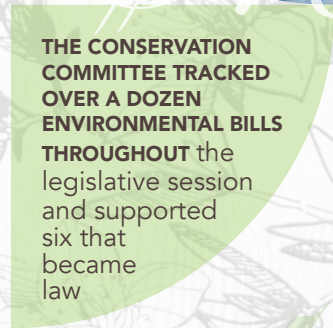


**GCV'S RESTORATION
COMMITTEE AND
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT**
provided garden
or design assistance
to over a dozen
restoration
sites



**NET PROCEEDS FROM
HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK
2026 EXCEEDED \$752,000
FOR RESTORATION
PROGRAMS**

\$752,000



**THE CONSERVATION
COMMITTEE TRACKED
OVER A DOZEN
ENVIRONMENTAL BILLS
THROUGHOUT** the
legislative session
and supported
six that became
law



**DAFFODIL DAY
FEATURED** more than
1,300
horticulture
specimens



GCV's first
Native MVP,
Baptisia australis
was used in **MANY
WAYS** in arrangements,
club planting projects,
and during Historic
Garden Week



GCV INVESTED ALMOST
\$1.3 million into mission
programs: landscape
restorations, education,
flower shows,
publications,
awards, and
fellowships



**THE GCV WELCOMED
NEW HONORARY
MEMBER:** Brent Heath
of Brent and
Becky's Bulbs

by the numbers



FROM THE TREASURER

The Garden Club of Virginia's financial stewardship is about more than balancing budgets — it's about sustaining the programs, projects, and connections that define our mission. This year, careful management, generous donors, and a successful Historic Garden Week allowed us to invest meaningfully in our club and our commonwealth.

The GCV operates on a fiscal year from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. 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 our May 2025 GCV Annual Meeting.

The GCV's largest source of revenue is our annual Historic Garden Week. The 2026 tour was a big success with a net income of \$752,623. The proceeds fund our restoration and ongoing support of historic public landscapes throughout the commonwealth as well as a Historic Landscape Research Fellowship.

The sources of operating funds for the GCV include membership dues, the Annual Fund, and sponsorships. In addition, we receive income from advertising, workshops, special programs, and rental of our carriage house.

As in most years, those sources of revenue do not fully fund the operating budget. GCV's endowment enables us to fill the gaps. Our policy allows for an endowment draw of up to five percent. For FY26, we took a 4.25 percent draw.

The GCV's expenditures support restoration projects, educational programs for members and the general public, management, and staff salaries, maintenance and operations of our headquarters, cash awards to clubs for community projects

(the Common Wealth Award and the Bessie Bocock Carter Award), fellowships, development, communications, and our annual audit.

Following our auditors' recommendation, more staff expenses were allocated to Programs this year to better reflect the mission-oriented work of our staff. As a result, Management/Staff expenditures appear lower than the prior year, although our full-time equivalent staffing remained unchanged.

As of June 30, 2026, GCV's assets totaled approximately \$15.7 million, including the Kent-Valentine House, cash reserves, and investment portfolios valued at \$12.9 million, representing 82 percent of total assets. Our FY2024-25 financial statements received a clean audit opinion. As a 501(c)(3) organization, our 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. We are well-positioned to continue preserving Virginia's historic landscapes, supporting our members, and stewarding the gifts of nature.

It has been a privilege to serve as Treasurer of the GCV. I am deeply grateful to the Finance Committee, our Executive Director and staff, and my fellow Board members for their partnership and commitment to responsible financial stewardship.

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

Financials are unaudited as of Sept. 2026 and will be audited by early 2027



 **GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA**
Historic Garden Week

2026 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.

A.HICKMAN Design	Commonwealth Home Health Care
Alexandria Fine Rugs	Corcoran McEneaney REALTORS®
Arborscapes	Cross Creek Nursery & Landscaping
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At Altitude Gallery & North Street Market	Abbi and John Custis
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Back East Landscaping	Davenport & Company LLC,
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Bronco Federal Credit Union	Friends of Historic Richmond
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Jesse & Sandy Canada	and Farm Market
Cary Street Partners	Community Foundation for
Checkered Flag	Northern Virginia/Gemini 3
Chesapeake Bank and Wealth	Group Charitable Fund
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	Visit Gloucester and Daffodil Festival

Grelen Nursery and The Market at Grelen	Shore United Bank
Ginger & Tom Hampton	Judge Robert L. &
Hampton House	Anne Meade Simpson, Jr.
Harmanscapes	Stafford Printing
Hatcher & Frey Orthodontics	Sterling Capital
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Cindy and Tim Hughes	Tech Painting Company
Johnson Realty Advisors	The Tides Inn
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KPM	Towne Wealth Management
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Lawns & Gardens Plus	Trash Fairies
Lewis Insurance Associates	True Timber
Priority Lexus	u-fab interiors
Rennie and Richmond McDaniel	Ultimate Pools
Dana McKenna Designs	Mary Vaughan
Lloyd F. Moss, Jr., DDS & Lloyd F.	VCU Massey Comprehensive
Moss, III, DDS	Cancer Center
Whitney & Clarke Murphy	Virginia Beach Convention and
Muse Medical Spa	Visitors Bureau
Olivia's/Scoot's BBQ/Porter's on	Virginia Land and Homes, Bo Parrish
Main Restaurants	Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
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Pariser Dermatology	Tom Waller
Parker Oil Company	George Washington's Mount Vernon
Phillips Energy Inc.	Mary Washington Healthcare
PNC Bank	Westminster-Canterbury on
Pohanka Automotive Group	Chesapeake Bay
The David E. Post Family Foundation	WPL Site Design
Rappahannock Electric Cooperative	Wright Consulting
ReMax Commonwealth	Van Yahres Tree Company
RiverStreet	Younger Construction
Rosney Co. Architects	



BOXWOOD MAZE \$500 TO \$999

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 Mary Jane O'Neill*
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 Susan Ware
 Marty Whipple
 Suzi Worsham*
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*Perennials - Donors who support the Annual Fund for three or more consecutive years



HEALING GARDEN \$250 TO \$499

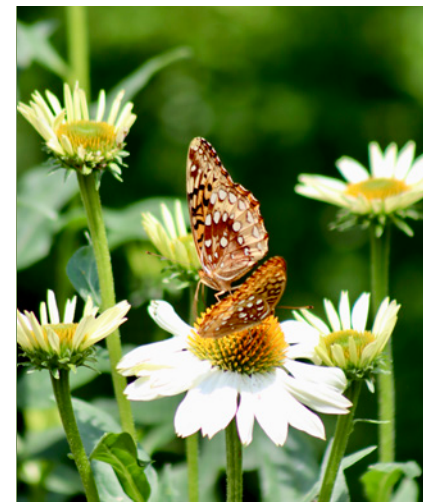
The Blue Ridge Garden Club*
The Boxwood Garden Club*
The Brunswick Garden Club*
The Garden Study Club*

The Hunting Creek Garden Club*
Rivanna Garden Club
The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton*

Betsy Rawls Agelasto*
Courtney Andrews
Erma and Brian Baker*
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Nan Bennett*
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Amy Birdsong
Vickie W. Blanchard
Jody Walton Bundy*
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Pattie Williams
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**ANNUAL BORDER \$100 TO \$249**

The Garden Club of Alexandria*	Leesburg Garden Club*
The Augusta Garden Club*	The Lychburg Garden Club
The Charlottesville Garden Club*	The Martinsville Garden Club
The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore*	Mill Mountain Garden Club
The Garden Club of Fairfax*	The Garden Club of the Northern Neck
The Franklin Garden Club	Three Rivers Garden Club
The Garden Club of Gloucester and Mathews	The Virginia Beach Garden Club*
Harborfront Garden Club*	The Warrenton Garden Club
The Huntington Garden Club*	The Williamsburg Garden Club*
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Frankie Smith	
Ann Powell Sniffin	
Kim Snyder	
Lois Spencer*	
Misty Spong	
Cora Sue Spruill	
Oz Staley	
Jan Stalfort	
Catherine Stanley	
Susan Stinson	



KNOT GARDEN UP TO \$99

Chatham Garden Club*	The Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula*
The Garden Club of Danville*	The Spotswood Garden Club
Gabriella Garden Club*	

Anne Abraham	Kyle Furr	Tommi Nevin*
Pearl R. Adamson*	Missy Goode*	Lois M. Nichols
Katherine Adamson*	Lindsay T. Gould	Carol Seaton Norfleet*
Suzanne Aiello	Kimberley P. Griffith	Merry Abbitt Outlaw
Bette J. Albert	Jennifer M. Griffiths	Pamela Paterson
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Helen Carter	Nancy Knewstep*	Linda K. Smith*
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Debbie and Gary Bonnewell

THESE GENEROUS DONORS PROVIDE VALUABLE
SERVICES TO SUPPORT GCV'S MISSION:

Hunton Andrews Kurth, LLC

Hilldrup

Greenway Interiors



TOP: Members of the Green Arrow Society enjoyed touring POKE, an expansive property with several gardens, with property owner and gardener Dana Westring on Nov. 19, 2025.

ABOVE: Ingrid Hinckley Lindsay (L), a member of The Warrenton Garden Club as well as the Green Arrow Society hosted a luncheon in her lovely home, "Henchmen's Lea," following the POKE garden tour. Also pictured are GCV President Kris Carbone and Development Committee Chairman Wendy Walker.



GREEN ARROW SOCIETY

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.

Kathryn Angus	Meg Laughon
Margaret Bemiss+	Patricia Reid Webb Leggett+
Barbara Backus	Debbie Lewis
Anne Beals	Ingrid Hinckley Lindsay
Samantha Bishop	Rebecca Mahon
Gail Braxton	Mary Wynn Richmond McDaniel
Margaret Talman Brockenbrough	Mary “Rennie” McDaniel
Sally Guy Brown	Tricia McDaniel
Missy Buckingham	Katherine T. Mears+
Deedy Bumgardner	Helen Turner Murphy+
Jeanette Cadwallender	Nina Mustard
Beverly and Wirt Christian, Jr.+	Mary Jane O'Neill
Allison Clock	Betsy Sale
Lee Stuart Cochran+	Tracy Shackelford
Janet Jackson Dennis+	Lisa Soltis
Clarkie and Tom Eppes	Dianne Spence
Mary Carter Frackelton	Katie Spencer
Jean E. R. Gilpin	Kit Sullivan
Robert Henkel	Kitty Lee Waffle
Kelly Johnson	Wendy Walker
Jennifer Kelley	Susan Ware
AnnHall Kendall	Cabell West
Elizabeth W. King	Susan B. Wight
	Mina W. Wood

+ Deceased



“ I’m inspired by the vision of the women who came together in 1920 to create something that would last beyond their own generation. They were true trailblazers who cared deeply about preserving Virginia’s beauty, gardens, and heritage. By including GCV in my estate plans, I hope to follow their example and help carry their legacy forward for future generations.

My favorite time of the year is Historic Garden Week, and I chaired our club’s tour a few years ago. HGW gives us the opportunity to meet garden lovers from across the country, and it makes me appreciate how special and unique the work of GCV really is. What we have in Virginia is truly worth preserving, and joining the Green Arrow Society is one way I can help support our important work long after I am gone.”

Samantha Bishop
The Hampton Roads Garden Club

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement

The Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement, given since 1928, is GCV's oldest and most prestigious award.

The recipient must have served the Garden Club of Virginia with unusual dedication and distinction; have been effective in promoting the betterment of GCV; and demonstrated excellence in horticulture, restoration, preservation, or conservation of Virginia's natural resources.

Due to a scheduling conflict with the 2025 Annual Meeting, the 2025 Massie Medal was awarded at the 2025 Board of Governors Meeting, resulting in two Massie Medal presentations in the 2025-26 fiscal year.



2025 RECIPIENT:

CABELL GOOLSBY WEST,
THE TUCKAHOE GARDEN CLUB
OF WESTHAMPTON

THE INSCRIPTION ON CABELL'S AWARD READS:

"With deep gratitude for the vision, passion, and determination as a tireless champion of the GCV."



2026 RECIPIENT:

ANNE GARDNER BALDWIN,
THE GARDEN CLUB OF ALEXANDRIA

THE INSCRIPTION ON ANNE'S AWARD READS:

"An inspiring mentor whose steadfast leadership exemplifies integrity, dedication, and grace."

Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award

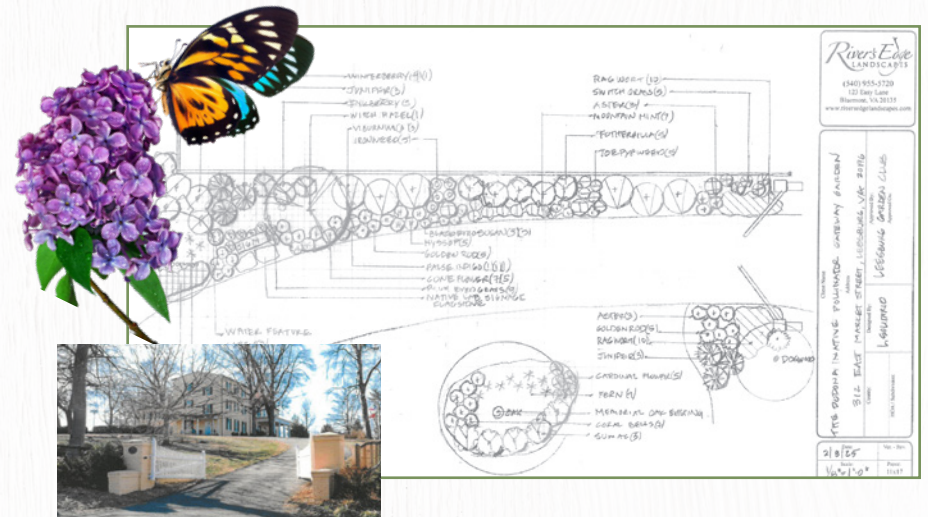
The 2026 Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award was presented at the Annual Meeting to **LEESBURG GARDEN CLUB** for their project:

THE DODONA NATIVE POLLINATOR GATEWAY GARDEN

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.



Leesburg Garden Club President Tracy Coffing, Conservation Awards Chairman Sarah Hellewell, and Kris Carbone. Photo by Megan Ames, The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore.



award recipients

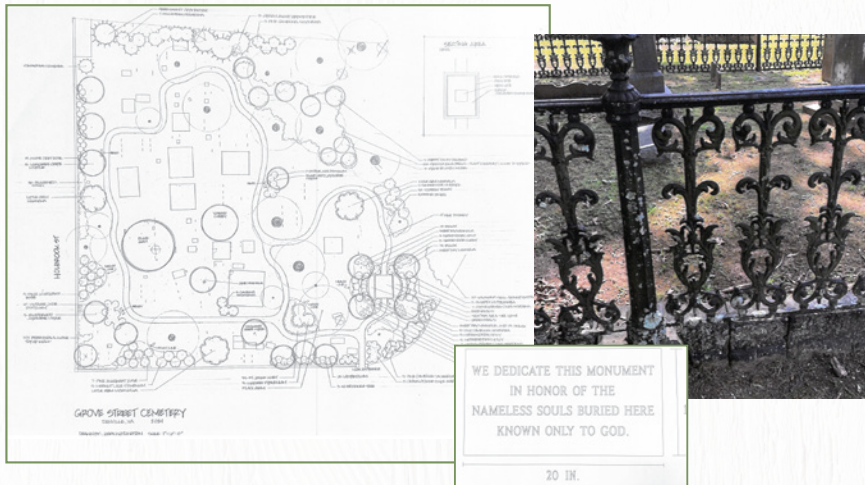
AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Common Wealth Award

This year's recipient was **THE GARDEN CLUB OF DANVILLE**, for its project:

REHABILITATING DANVILLE'S HISTORIC GROVE ST. CEMETERY

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 and awarded at the annual Board of Governors meeting in the fall.



Helen and Tayloe Murphy Award

The 2025 Helen and Tayloe Murphy Conservation Leadership in Government Award was presented to **VIRGINIA SENATOR EMILY JORDAN**, who has **SPONSORED BILLS NAMING APRIL AS NATIVE PLANT MONTH IN VIRGINIA AND ADDRESSING FLOODING ISSUES IN THE HAMPTON ROADS REGION**. She was nominated by The Garden Club of Norfolk. The Murphy 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 natural resources, and who demonstrate a commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable practices.



Jeff Elmore accepted the award on behalf of Sen. Jordan, presented by Conservation Awards Chairman Sarah Hellewell

Dugdale Award for Conservation

The 2025 recipient was **ROBERT WHITESCARVER**, who works with landowners to **RESTORE WATERSHEDS AND RIPARIAN BUFFERS IN THE JAMES RIVER WATERSHED** and beyond, making a significant impact in the commonwealth.

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. Whitescarver, *pictured third from left* was nominated by The Augusta Garden Club and received the award for his extraordinary dedication to conservation and ecological restoration.



Conservation Educator Award

The 2025 Award was presented to **DR. MIRIAM WESTERVELT**, *pictured third from right*, a **VIRGINIA MASTER NATURALIST AND LOUDOUN COUNTY EDUCATOR** who established The Peterson Young Naturalist Program and has led several professional development workshops for fellow educators, teaching teachers how to facilitate environmental and outdoor learning. The Conservation Educator Award, established in 2016, recognizes individuals or organizations whose work in an educational environment supports the conservation ideals of the Garden Club of Virginia. Dr. Westervelt was nominated by Leesburg Garden Club.

de Lacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation



The 2026 medal was presented to **BETTE BIBEE**, *pictured at left*, of **THE LYNCHBURG GARDEN CLUB** for her leadership in establishing Blue Ridge Conservation and her tireless efforts to expand the impact and footprint of that organization.

A memorial to de Lacy Thompson Gray, given originally by the Dolley Madison Garden Club, it is presented to an individual member, or a member club, of the GCV. First awarded in 1965, it recognizes outstanding effort to further the knowledge of our natural resources and to encourage their wise use.

IN SUPPORT OF
DISTINCT PILLARS OF OUR MISSION

Tribute Gifts

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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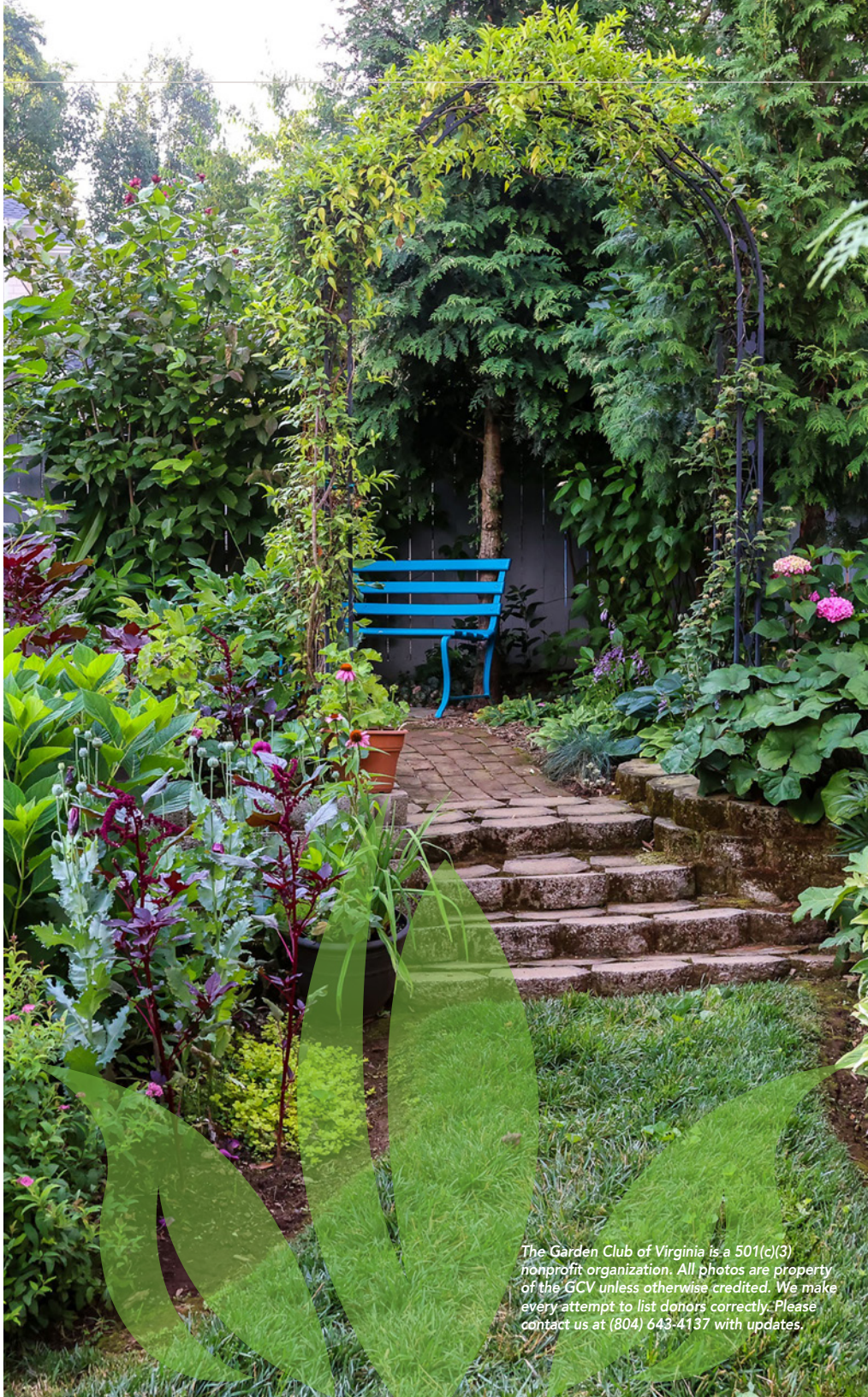
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