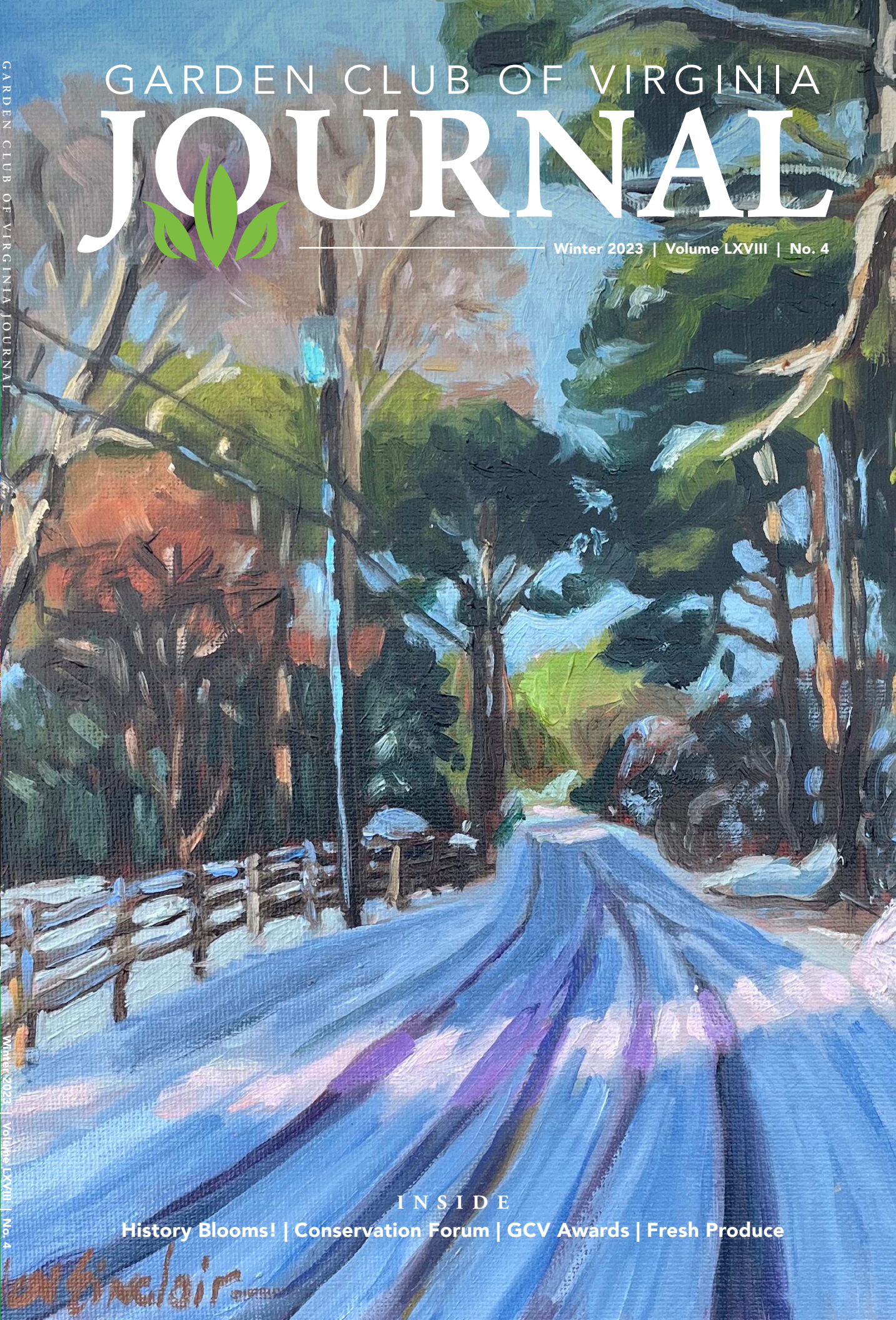


GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA JOURNAL



Winter 2023 | Volume LXVIII | No. 4



INSIDE
History Blooms! | Conservation Forum | GCV Awards | Fresh Produce

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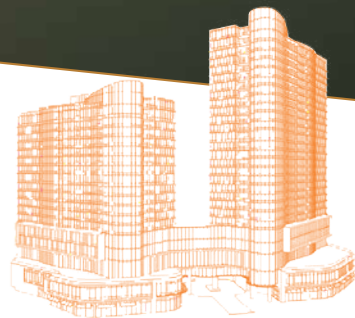
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THE GCV JOURNAL

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.

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.

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|--------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|
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| Spring | March | January 15 | January 1 |
| Summer | June | April 15 | April 1 |
| Fall | September | July 15 | July 1 |

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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.

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 12/20/2023



ABOVE LEFT:
 Board of Governors met on the Eastern Shore

ABOVE CENTER:
 A visitor appeared on the podium at the Conservation Forum

ABOVE RIGHT:
 Horticulture Field Day in Colonial Williamsburg

COVER ART:
Cavalier Drive, by Ellen Sinclair, The Virginia Beach Garden Club

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DON'T MISS! Read our features on **five GCV events** starting on page 13.



CAN YOU GUESS?

If you can correctly guess which article this photo corresponds to in our pages AND you can identify what it is, email Journal@GCVirginia.org with your answer and "GUESS" in the subject line for a chance to win a pack of GCV notecards that feature restoration sites across the state. Email us by January 15 to qualify.

ON THE COVER: ARTIST SPOTLIGHT
ELLEN SINCLAIR

Ellen Sinclair loves driving around where she often finds inspiration for her art. "This painting is one of a series I painted of roads" she explains, referencing the cover of this edition of the *Journal*. "To experience such beauty in an everyday scene is thrilling," Ellen continues. "My joy comes in sharing it."

This nearly native of Virginia Beach (she was born in Richmond) counts herself lucky to have had both her mother, Anne Townsend Overman, and her grandmother, Ellen Douglas Townsend, nurture a love of gardening and floral arranging. She studied art at Hollins, and in France on a year abroad. She counts impressionist among her greatest influences and is especially drawn to their love of color and light. After a career in interior design, Ellen devoted herself to painting, studying with notable artists including Andras Bality, Colin Page, and Charles Souvek. Her work hangs in public and private collections all over the world.

A longtime member of The Virginia Beach Garden Club, and prior to that a Junior Virginia Beach Garden Club member, Ellen chaired the Virginia Beach tour of Historic Garden Week in 2010. "We combined our love and interest of beautiful homes and gardens, floral arranging, and interior design with art for the first time by adding The Painted Garden Art Show as a stop on the tour," she says, adding "Flowers and art are a perfect union."

Ellen's own landscape is full of color—"imagine that!" she exclaims. Oranges, yellows and corals are in the front that gets afternoon sun. "Behind our house, it's sunny all day," she says, adding that her vegetable garden can be seen from the kitchen window. She also has a cutting garden with purple and violet with touches of pink and soft yellow—iris, clematis, salvias, peonies, roses, catmint, "and my favorite GCV 2019 roses—'Pink Enchantment,' 'Duchess de Brabant' and 'Winter Sun.'" A shady secret garden is behind her studio. And at the far back of her landscape is a woodland garden—"mostly greens and whites," she says.

"I encourage viewers to take a moment to see and appreciate the way the light falls on a country road, or the brilliant colors of freshly arranged flowers in a vase, or the aftermath of a delicious meal shared with others," Ellen says. "I paint what I love with all my heart. My hope is that my paintings will ring true and touch the lives of others in a meaningful way." —*Madeline Mayhood, The James River Garden Club*



Cavalier Drive,
8" x 10", oil on canvas,
by Ellen Sinclair,
Virginia Beach
Garden Club

REFLECTIONS ON A FULL YEAR



Reflecting on the flurry of fall events, I am filled with deep gratitude for the incredible creativity, planning, and commitment of our Board of Directors, committee chairmen, club members and staff whose hard work and dedication made our recent Garden Club of Virginia initiatives a resounding success.

Our monthly virtual learning series, Cultivating Conversations, responded to the call for new educational opportunities. The initial sessions received rave reviews from attendees, marking a tremendous start to this engaging GCV experience.

History Blooms was a dynamic, three-day program in partnership with the Virginia Museum of History & Culture highlighting the state's history and horticulture. Twenty-six member clubs crafted exquisite floral designs representing Virginia's diverse regions, state parks, and GCV restoration sites. The event also drew esteemed experts from across the nation who helped to expand our knowledge of gardening, flowers, history and floriculture, resulting in most enthusiastic responses from GCV members and the public.

Our host for the 104th Annual Board of Governors meeting, The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore, offered a remarkable, two-day experience filled with productive meetings amidst the picturesque "land between two waters." The quiet countryside setting nestled between ocean and bay provided the perfect backdrop for discussions and lovely hospitality.

And the 65th Annual Conservation Forum, themed EcoLandscaping: Restoring Nature's Balance, held in Charlottesville, showcased innovative approaches to ecological gardening. Three remarkable speakers shared insights on applying environmentally functional concepts in home gardens, reinforcing our commitment to sustainable practices.

Personally, my travels across the state to visit member clubs have been most inspiring and memorable, and I am truly grateful for your warmth and gracious hospitality. Witnessing the impact of your community projects and programs and experiencing the energy and enthusiasm of our members reaffirms our mission of conservation, beautification, preservation and the relevance of the Garden Club of Virginia in today's world. What a special gift to work together to make a lasting impact across our commonwealth while building lifelong friendships and having fun.

As we look ahead, our 2024 calendar brims with excitement for upcoming events: Legislative Day, Daffodil Day, Historic Garden Week and Horticulture Field Day. Look for more information on these events and new announcements in the days to come!

I send you my very best and hope you will enjoy this special time of year with your loved ones.

Debbie Lewis
GCV President, 2022-2024

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District 6 (2023-2025): Stephanie Broadwater, The Nansemond River Garden Club

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NEW! GCV NOTECARDS

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA: PRESERVING VIRGINIA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE THROUGH HISTORIC GARDEN RESTORATION

Since 1929, the GCV has preserved and restored more than 50 public historic landscapes and gardens throughout Virginia.

This important work is possible due to the efforts of GCV members who produce Historic Garden Week tours in their communities.

This first set in a series represents a selection of our projects through photos taken by GCV members and friends. The photos have been digitally converted to a lovely watercolor effect.

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WELCOME WINTER



Winter is here, and the temps have dropped, but this issue of the *Journal* is all about the Garden Club of Virginia's hugely successful fall lineup. Autumn was abuzz with GCV events all over the state—from Richmond to the Eastern Shore to Charlottesville and Williamsburg. As Debbie recounted so eloquently, they were well-organized, well-attended and inspiring, so don't miss our coverage in the pages of this packed winter edition.

You can lean into eco-landscaping with our coverage on November's Conservation Forum; get the lowdown on the Board of Governors, which met on the Eastern Shore in October, where members of the Garden Club of the Eastern Shore rolled out the red carpet; and take a peek at *History Blooms*, where the GCV and the Virginia Museum of History & Culture strengthened this important relationship and showcased the state's history through flowers. Then, Allison Clock, Horticulture Committee Chairman, shares her Horticulture Field Day diary, recounting this two-day deep dive into the culture of Williamsburg's horticulture. And finally, Fran Carden, the state tour chairman of Historic Garden Week, offers a primer on HGW 2024, confessing that she has a major crush on a certain 18th-century Swedish botanist. Plus, she gives us a glimpse into 'Nikko Blue,' HGW's poster bloom. And definitely don't miss her quiz. Curl up in front of a roaring fire with some hot cocoa and test your botanical brainpower.

And there's more to this issue of the *Journal*. We bring you timely bits and bobs in Fresh Produce, news from clubs in our SNIPS section, and great gardening accessories in time for the New Year. Savor the pages. They're just for you.

As always, we love hearing from GCV club members, so drop us a line at Journal@GCVirginia.org with your comments and ideas. We're listening.

With best New Year wishes,

Madeline Mayhood

Madeline Mayhood, *GCV Journal Editor*
journal@gcvirginia.org
The James River Garden Club





Garden Site Tour : Botanical Garden of the Piedmont



Conceptual plans for the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont courtesy of Mikyoung Kim Design

There's a new kid on the block, a new botanical garden, that is. The Botanical Garden of the Piedmont, located in Charlottesville, is just starting to spread its wings. Boston landscape architectural firm Mikyoung Kim Design, along with local firm Waterstreet Studio, were selected to spearhead the master plan for the garden's 8.5 acres along the east side of McIntire Park.

The conceptual design makes the most of the site's natural features with a series of stepped gardens and woodland walks. A diverse set of experiences—from meadows, pine groves, a waterfall, and mushroom gardens—encourage visitors to explore and engage the natural world.

An amphitheater and event space provide ample opportunity to hold both public and private, revenue-generating events. Once complete, the garden will highlight the evolving definition of native plant materials while weaving sculptural experiences into this modern-day botanical garden.

Though still in its relative infancy, the project is underway. In the meantime, there's plenty to check out. Site tours are the first Saturday of every month and are designed to bring

visitors up to date on all happenings and plans for this exciting public garden. Tours are limited to 16 people and last approximately 45 minutes. The next tour is at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, January 6, 2024. The Garden is located at 950 Melbourne Road. Parking is available along Melbourne Road. The site tends to be wet so sturdy, waterproof shoes are recommended. RSVP to rsvp@piedmontgarden.org to reserve your space. 🌿



Emily Yates: GCV Office and Events Coordinator

Welcome Wagon

The KVH is happy to share that beginning in early October, **Emily Yates** joined the team as GCV's new office and events coordinator. Emily brings nearly a decade of experience in the nonprofit sector, and recently graduated cum laude with a master's degree in public history. She comes to us from The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, where she commanded cannons, taught in the Powder Magazine, and worked to better the Foundation's understanding of minorities in the 18th century.

She is best known for her love of women's history, dogs and Halloween. In her spare time, she volunteers with a WWII living history group and raises money for the Alzheimer's Association. Welcome, Emily! 🌿

—Andrea Butler



AWARD NOMINATIONS DEADLINE

MARCH 1, 2024

The Common Wealth Award, established in 1979, provides funds to support community projects of conservation, beautification, horticulture, preservation and/or education. The two-word name Common Wealth describes the "wealth" that is "common" to all Virginians.

Nominations may be submitted by GCV members or member clubs.

The Horticulture Award of Merit

was established in 1960 to recognize individual members of the Garden Club of Virginia who have achieved significant accomplishments in horticulture, both personally and in their communities.

Please consider nominating your club's dedicated and hard-working horticulturalists.

The de Lacy Gray Conservation Medal

was established by the Dolley Madison Garden Club as a memorial to de Lacy Thompson Gray. The award recognizes outstanding effort by a GCV member or a GCV member club in furthering the knowledge of our natural resources as well as encouraging their wise use.

Nominations may be submitted by GCV members or member clubs.

Visit GCVirginia.org to learn more.

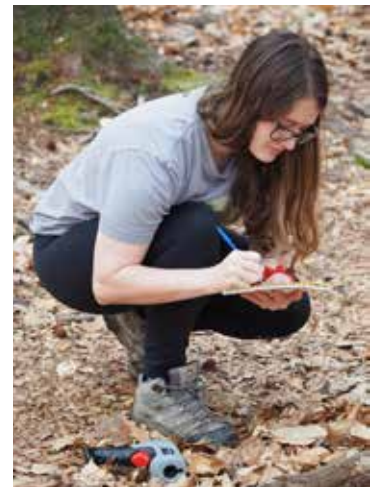
2024 Conservation & Environmental Studies Fellowship News

New for 2024, two fellowships will be granted—one to a graduate student and one to an undergraduate student.

This Fellowship was established in 2014 to support scholars conducting research in areas relating to the conservation of natural resources and/or environmental studies concerning flora, fauna or cultural practices within communities that directly impact the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In November, the Conservation and Environmental Studies Fellowship announcements were distributed to colleges and universities.

If you know a college student who may be interested, guidelines and the application form is posted on the GCV website. GCVirginia.org 🌿



Marlena Hamilton (above, Christopher Newport University), Conservation and Environmental Studies Fellow 2023, whose project is "Understanding Climate Risk to Red-back Salamanders Through Behavior, Physiology, and Geography."



Conservation & Environmental Studies Fellowship Applications Due Feb. 1, 2024

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Bread Pudding

for the Holidays & Beyond

Cooking with Clare

Clare Schapiro, a James River Garden Club member, refuses to call herself a chef, but in most minds she really is. Of the first order. Her food is beyond delicious, and her cookbook is full of satisfying recipes for any time of year. For this issue of the *Journal*, her amazing bread pudding is perfect for a New Year's splurge. It relies on ingredients you need to use up—that panettone loaf your husband brought home from the office, some left over eggnog, the jar of plum pudding a neighbor dropped by. And if you're low on plum pudding, reach for a jar of preserves—whatever strikes your fancy. The result is quick and superb. Here's her recipe:



Photos courtesy of Pixabay

HOLIDAY BREAD PUDDING

- 4 cups of eggnog *spiked if you like it that way*
- 4 eggs
- 1 panettone loaf *crust removed and remaining loaf chopped into one-inch cubes*
- 1 jar of plum pudding *about a cup*

Optional

- Powdered sugar for dusting
- Heavy cream

Preheat the oven to 375°F.

Butter an oval baking dish and fill it with the panettone cubes.

Vigorously beat eggnog with eggs.

Pour the eggy eggnog over the panettone, squishing the cubes down into the liquid with a fork, so it gets saturated.

Place it in the fridge for about an hour.

Pour the plum pudding over the eggy panettone and cover with foil.

Place the baking dish in a roasting pan, and then pour boiling water into the roasting pan half-way up the sides of the baking dish.

Bake it at 375°F for 25 minutes, remove foil and bake for another 30 minutes.

Dust with confectioners' sugar (optional) before serving.

Clare says the result is a "sort of rum-raisin thing going on," especially if you've used spiked eggnog. "The bourbon morphs into feeling rum-like by its proximity to the dried fruit from the plum pudding," she reminisces, adding, "I recommend pouring a little heavy cream on top of each serving and dusting with a little powdered sugar, because, far be it from me to resist any opportunity to gild the lily!"

Clare's Kitchen is available for purchase on Amazon and at ClaresKitchen.net

Preparing Trees & Shrubs for Winter

Extreme weather events and changing climate conditions result in chronic stress to woody plants. This summer, we saw the decline and death of even well-established mature trees. Read on for suggestions to promote the health of trees and shrubs and to protect them from temperature extremes.

Apply and maintain a 2- to 4-inch layer of organic mulch at the base of woody plants, extending out to the dripline if possible. The combination of leaves, twigs, bark and wood is similar to the natural mulch found in a forest. This layer of mulch allows

water penetration, decreases evaporation and protects roots from extreme temperature changes. Mulch should be left to decompose in place rather than removing and replacing with new mulch each year.

Providing water during drought is very important. Trees and shrubs, especially evergreens, are at a great disadvantage going into the winter months suffering drought stress. Continue irrigation until cold temperatures arrive.

Sample your soil for nutrient content and pH levels. Fertilize if your soils are nutrient deficient. Adjusting soil pH may



be necessary to improve availability of some nutrients. Multiple treatments might be needed to make adjustment in soil pH. Late fall is the perfect time to assess your needs.

—Bartlett Tree Experts, Bartlett.com



Icicles can be dangerous and split branches. Light snow can be brushed off foliage to prevent it from freezing overnight.

GREEN ARROW SOCIETY

The Garden Club of Virginia is grateful to the members and friends who have chosen to leave a lasting legacy by including the GCV in their estate plans. For information on the Green Arrow Society, contact Andrea Butler, GCV Executive Director at AButler@GCVirginia.org

- Anonymous
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THE GCV'S 104TH BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The GCV's 104th Board of Governors, Hosted by The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

The GCV's 104th Board of Governor's Meeting was hosted by The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore on October 17-19, 2023. GCVS members provided meeting spaces, meals, and lodging in various locations spanning the two counties of Northampton and Accomack, which constitute the Eastern Shore of Virginia—"the land between two waters."

—continued on next page



104th
Board of
Governors



“Hospitality was the operative theme, and your club members were welcoming and helpful at every turn. Creativity, warmth and generosity were in abundance.”



“Perfection” is the only word that describes the BOG meeting; every detail was thought-out and well-executed.”

—continued from previous page

Attendees were transported by bus up and down the peninsula to functions held on many of our creeks—from registration and horticulture exhibits at Oyster Farm Event Center on King’s Creek, first-night dinner at The Eastern Shore Yacht and Country Club on Pungoteague Creek, and on our final evening, the delicious awards banquet at historic Elkington located on a tributary known as The Gulf in Northampton County. Everyone enjoyed taking in the scenic water views along the way and were delighted by the culinary skills of local chef Amy Brandt. Members of the GCV Board of Directors were feted with a luncheon at historic Ker Place in Onancock, a GCV Historic Garden Restoration site, which



was beautifully decorated with colorful dahlias. Many of our visitors were able to tour the spectacular gardens and interiors of

Eyre Hall, an annual mainstay of Historic Garden Week. The Barrier Island Center, a gem of a museum of local history and culture, was also on the schedule.

Guest speakers included noted architectural historian Calder Loth, and Jon Wehner, owner of Chatham Winery in Machipongo. Rumor has it that our local wine shop sold out of his delicious wines shortly after his wonderful presentation to the group! Ellie Gordon, president of the GCV, shared the following highlighted quotes taken from thank-you notes sent by attendees: Members of The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore had so much fun working together to ensure that club presidents from around the state had a good



experience and do hope that their guests will return soon and often to the “Land Between Two Waters.”

—by Nancy Lawson Holcomb, The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

“Your club has such a kind and generous spirit, and I love the sense of pride you all exude for the Eastern Shore.”



history blooms

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA AND THE VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE CELEBRATED THE STATE'S HISTORY THROUGH FLOWERS.



The Garden Club of Virginia partnered with the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, Oct. 6-8, for a new event, *History Blooms*, aimed at telling the living stories of Virginia through flowers, while showcasing the work of the GCV.

Twenty-six member clubs answered the call to design flowers to represent their region, a state park or a GCV restoration site. The beautiful arrangements wowed the event's nearly 1,700 visitors.

"I was overwhelmed at the beauty and originality that our club members put into the flower arrangements," said Debbie Lewis, president of the Garden Club of Virginia.

"The descriptions of the arrangements in the exhibit guide, collectively, helped visitors learn about and

appreciate the many treasures of Virginia," she added.

"The feedback from our members was great," said Cathy Lee, chairman of the GCV's Artistic Design Committee. "They enjoyed being part of a non-judged show, and clearly their creative juices were flowing," she added.

Visitors voted for their favorite with ballots, and the winner was The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club.

In addition to the floral displays, the weekend included a reception for club members and sponsors, keynote speaker P. Allen Smith, workshops and demonstrations, a luncheon and a dinner with speakers, a pop-up shop from Potomac Floral Wholesale, and a First Fridays event for families. 🌿

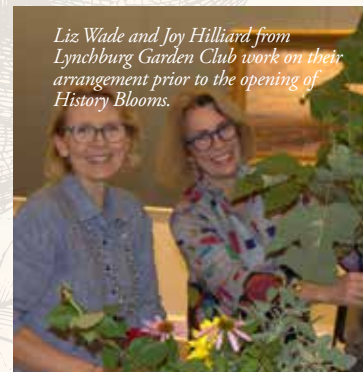
—**Andrea Butler, Executive Director, GCV**



Former GCV President Jeannette Cadwallender (L) accepted the People's Choice Award for The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club's arrangement, with congratulations from former GCV President Missy Buckingham with current President Debbie Lewis.



The luncheon sold out for speakers and authors Thomas Lloyd (L) and Bryan Huffman, shown here with Debbie Lewis.



Liz Wade and Joy Hilliard from Lynchburg Garden Club work on their arrangement prior to the opening of History Blooms.



Sue Thompson, Terry Toshi, Dean Norton, and Cathy Lee.



Abra Lee with Shaun Spencer-Hester.



Sybil Sylvester



GCV Executive Director Andrea Butler, Abra Lee, and GCV president Debbie Lewis.



Former GCV President Missy Buckingham with Artistic Design Committee Chairman Cathy Lee.



Artistic Design Committee Chairman Cathy Lee with P. Allen Smith and GCV President Debbie Lewis.



GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA
65th Annual Conservation FORUM



HIGHLIGHTS FROM GCV'S 2023 CONSERVATION FORUM

On a brisk early November morning in Charlottesville, GCV members from across the commonwealth gathered for the first in-person Conservation Forum since 2019. Featuring some of Virginia's leading voices in horticulture and landscape design, attendees, both virtual and in-person, learned about various principles and strategies for developing an ecologically sound landscape in any space, and gained newfound appreciation for native persimmons.

The Forum was held in the Irving Theater in Charlottesville's CODE Building, a LEED Platinum Certified space, perfectly suited to the topic—EcoLandscaping: Restoring Nature's Balance. Forum



speakers included Thomas Ranier, the Arlington-based landscape architect and landscape designer for the U.S. Capitol grounds, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and the New York Botanical Garden; heirloom orchardist, fruit explorer, horticultural historian and Savanna Institute Agroforestry Specialist Eliza Greenman; and

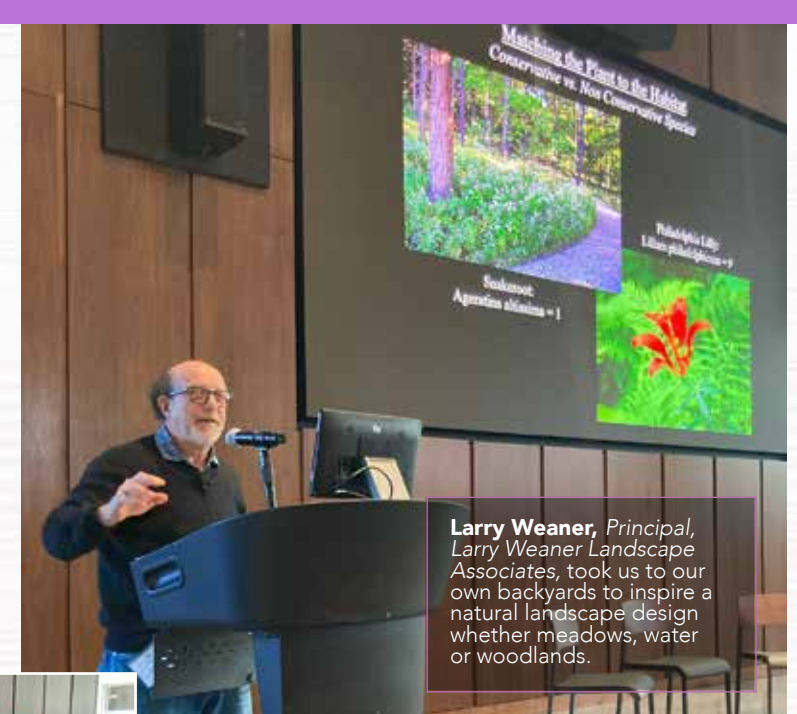
award-winning Pennsylvania-based landscape architect, native plant expert, author, and leader in natural landscape design Larry Weaner.

In keeping with GCV's mission to conserve Virginia's natural gifts, attendees gained a host of new tips and tricks for instituting

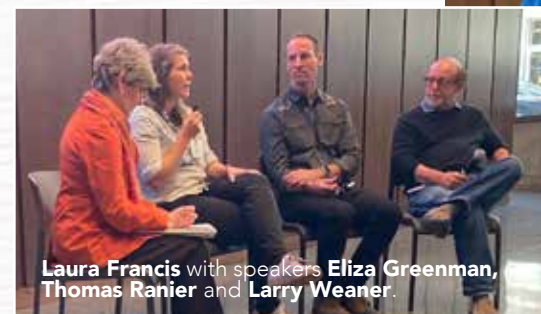


eco-friendly practices in their own landscapes. Speakers offered advice on choosing plants for spaces to work with, rather than against, their natural features; developing low-maintenance and long-lived designs; and creating beautiful, functional, and environmentally conscious landscapes. Attendees left with an appreciation for the origin stories of some of our most common plants and enjoyed an incredible selection of eco-friendly products from the Forum's vendors: Rivermont Refillery, HaaShrooms, Bartlett Tree Experts, and Blue Ridge Conservation.

A special thanks goes out to event sponsor Pinnacle Associates,



Larry Weaner, Principal, Larry Weaner Landscape Associates, took us to our own backyards to inspire a natural landscape design whether meadows, water or woodlands.

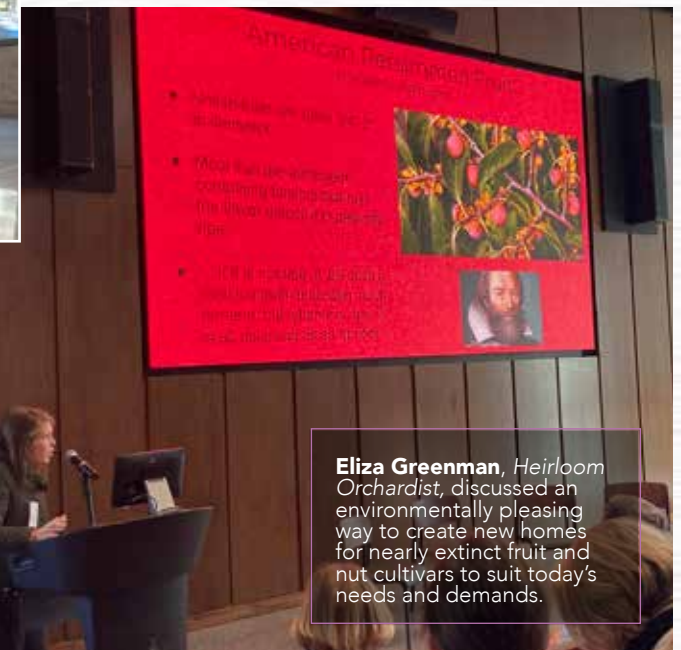


Laura Francis with speakers **Eliza Greenman**, **Thomas Ranier** and **Larry Weaner**.

Ltd., GCV Conservation and Beautification Chairman Sarah Hellewell, our speakers, vendors, hosts, and attendees who traveled from near and far.

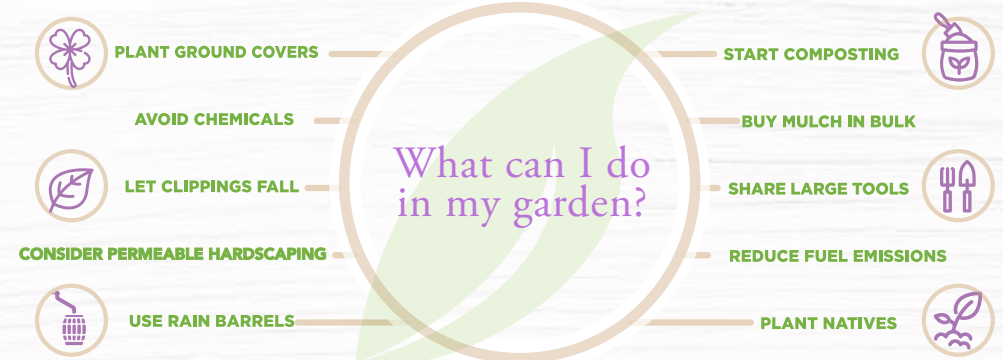
— **Sarah Blackburn**, Communications Director, GCV

Recordings of Eliza Greenman & Larry Weaner's presentations, the panel Q&A and conservation awards presentations are available at GCVirginia.org.



Eliza Greenman, Heirloom Orchardist, discussed an environmentally pleasing way to create new homes for nearly extinct fruit and nut cultivars to suit today's needs and demands.

Be inspired to meet Mother Nature more than halfway. Apply the principles and practices of eco-landscaping to unlock potential in your garden.



horticulture

FIELD DAY 2023

JUNE 7-8, WILLIAMSBURG



GCV Horticulture Chairman Allison Clock shares her day-by-day playbook from one of the GCV's most beloved events.

Day 1. Weather report: Seasonal temperatures, some precipitation, unusually low visibility, courtesy of smoke from the Canadian wildfires.

Nonplussed by the haze, GCV Horticulture Field Day attendees began with an Open House and the opportunity to visit the Nelson-Galt House, Colonial Williamsburg's oldest non-exhibition home. This circa 1695 home has been reimagined with garden-inspired furnishings and wallcoverings by the organization's second-only designer-in-residence, Heather Chadduck Hillegas. A Martinsville native, Hillegas is a renowned decorator and textile artist, who was named one of *Veranda's* Next Legends and is known for imbuing her work with Southern hospitality and style. Her innovative collaborations

with Schumacher fabrics, Benjamin Moore paints, Stark, Peacock Alley, and more combine traditional and modern aesthetics, making her a natural choice for the prestigious position.

Garden and educational horticulture tours on the historic campus of William & Mary were also on the day's itinerary. At the venerable Wren Building, considered to be the "soul" of the College and constructed in 1695 when Jamestown was still the colony's capital, Horticulture Field Day participants were welcomed by GCV President Debbie Lewis and



Allison Clock, GCV Horticulture Committee Chairman, along with Tony Orband, W&M's associate director of grounds and gardens. GCV Restoration Committee Chairman and former GCV president Jean Gilpin conveyed the history of the recently dedicated GCV/W&M joint restoration project, the Charles Gillette-designed Reveley Garden. The garden was included in the five walking garden tours led by W&M's exceptional landscaping staff and volunteers.

John McFarlane, W&M's recently retired associate director of gardens and grounds, who worked closely with the GCV's Restoration Committee on the Reveley Garden, was presented with a commemorative certificate of appreciation by Orband and Ben Owen, the college's greenhouse nursery supervisor. There was much applause from the GCV crowd in appreciation of John's work

that brought the garden to fruition. Williamsburg Garden Club members Ann Giknis and Libbey Oliver, who is also a W&M gardens and grounds volunteer, led tours of the Adams Memorial Garden. Planted with myriad bulbs, woodies, perennials and even tropical and semi-tropical specimens, it was named in memory of Gregory S. Adams, W&M '81, and dedicated in 1986.

The College takes pride in its extensive planting and maintenance program. As the nation's second oldest educational institution (Harvard was founded in 1636, beating W&M by 57 years), it has emphasized botany from its earliest days. Educational offerings include specimen plants, annuals, perennials, pruning, natives, and disease prevention,



along with beautifully landscaped gardens. The Lettie Page Evans Wildflower Refuge is a shaded respite garden enjoyed by students and residents alike, and Crim Dell

is native plant-centric. The theory is that students exposed to such a fine array of landscaping and plant material are more likely to develop a lifelong appreciation of horticulture and the wonders of nature than those who study in concrete jungles. In fact, students volunteered to plant additional bulbs in the Anderson-Kale Garden, a daffodil garden dedicated in 2022 to honor two longtime W&M employees, Louise Lambert Kale and Mary Delahaye Anderson.

Late in the day the Williamsburg GC hosted a W&M Green & Gold Lemonade Party on the patio of the president's house, where Ben Owen offered each Hort Field Day participant a potted zinnia grown especially for attendees.

All photos by Susan Lendermon



A House Tour at Colonial Williamsburg With Heather Chadduck Hillegas

Meet Designer in Residence, Heather Chadduck and take a tour of the Nelson-Galt house at Colonial Williamsburg.



DAY 2

Day 2. Weather report: Warm and sunny. Better visibility. A chance of rain in the afternoon, slight chance of a thunderstorm.

Warmly welcoming guests has been a mission of Bruton Parish Church since its founding in 1674. Present-day church and gift shop staff, along with GCV Horticulture Committee and Williamsburg GC members, welcomed all inside. Nina Mustard, former GCV president and Linda Montgomery, both WGC members, along with garden club friends, wowed the crowd with a stunning display and samples of their homemade luxury botanical skincare products made especially for the occasion.

The main event on Day 2 featured two Colonial Williamsburg greats as speakers: former Director of Landscaping Laura Viancour and

Jack Gary, Director of Archaeology. After their informative and inspiring talks, six groups marched down Duke of Gloucester Street for an unparalleled series of educational programs. Attendees learned about heirloom plants; boxwood blight, including its devastation and possible new treatments; the Compton Oak; Colonial Williamsburg-inspired holiday arrangements; topiary sheering; and more. After a box lunch back at Bruton Parish Church's Parish Hall, tours resumed at the Custis archaeological site with Jack Gary and his staff. GCV members were pleased to hear that Jack had worked with the GCV at the Poplar Forest restoration site.



A storm rolled in, briefly interrupting the afternoon, but after a few thunder booms and flashes of lightning, the rain diminished, and the sun came back out. It stopped just in time to conclude with the much-anticipated talk in the Church Sanctuary and the last tour—the churchyard restoration site given by renowned docents of Bruton Parish Church. Educational material was prepared and coordinated by Kate Muller, GCV Restoration Committee liaison and Garden Club of the Northern Neck member, for all to take home. The GCV Restoration project was led by Dianne Spence, GCV Horticulture Committee member, former Chairman and Williamsburg GC member.

One visitor commented later that she was sure that after this tour that many attendees would return with their friends and families to visit beautiful and historic Williamsburg and its gardens again. 🌿

— Allison Clock, The Hampton Roads Garden Club, GCV Horticulture Chairman



Compton Oak photo courtesy of Colonial Williamsburg

HORTICULTURE FIELD DAY 2024
Mark your calendars for **June 4 and 5, 2024**, for Horticulture Field Day in Leesburg. Watch for details to sign up. It fills up quickly!



The Compton Oak

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

While preparing to welcome GCV members to Williamsburg for Horticulture Field Day, Colonial Williamsburg arborists discovered telltale marks of invasive borers taking up residence in the trunk of Williamsburg's legendary Compton Oak, a stunning beauty that grows in the Historic Area on Nicholson Street at the edge of Market Square.

The tree is thought to have been planted in the early 1930s around the time of the colonial capital's restoration. As the story goes, C. Justus Brouwers, the first landscape superintendent for The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, found a Compton seedling on a walk in the Pungo Woods near Virginia Beach. The Compton Oak is a natural hybrid between a live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) and an overcup oak (*Quercus lyrata*) and not so easy to replicate without Mother Nature having a hand in the process.

Fast forward nearly a century, and today the Williamsburg Compton Oak is thought to be the largest of its kind to exist in the U.S. It stands some 70 feet tall and nearly 100 feet wide, its branches reaching out like wide, open arms. Its trunk measures 15 feet in diameter.

But the borers—insect larvae which drill into wood—have found the oak particularly vulnerable, attacking it because it's being oxygen starved, likely caused by compacted soil around its base. The Compton Oak is a place where visitors to CW have congregated by the throngs underneath its shady, welcoming branches in all seasons. Over the years, the soil surrounding it has become like concrete.

Thanks in part to the timing of GCV's 2023 Horticulture Field Day, CW's landscaping team spotted the borers, which seriously threatened this state champion. In consultation with experts, the team began a treatment regimen, which includes systemic insecticide injections and a topical spray. They're also loosening the soil around the tree's root system which adds oxygen back into the soil, as well as restricting access around its base, giving the soil a chance to breathe.

... The tree is expected to recover. 🌿



CRUSHING ON CARL LINNAEUS

by Fran Carden, 2024 Historic Garden Week State Chairman



Hydrangea Macrophylla
"Blue Hydr"

Carlus Linnaeus is my 18th-century crush! Who doesn't love a brilliant Swede with great hair and a title?

Carlus Linnaeus believed it was important to have a standard system of grouping and naming all plants and animals. He developed the binomial system of nomenclature, in which each species is identified by a generic Latin name (genus) and a specific name (species).



In 1735, he published his first edition of *Systema Naturae*, a small pamphlet explaining his new system of classifying plants. The following year, *Fundamenta Botanica* was released, which described the rules Linnaeus devised for classification. His 1753 publication, *Species Plantarum*, marked the initial use of the nomenclature for all flowering plants and ferns. *Genera Plantarum* was considered by Linnaeus to be his crowning taxonomic achievement, presenting a system based on what he called the "natural characters" of genera using morphological descriptions of all the parts of the plants. In 1758, he applied this system of nomenclature to animals.

A YOUNG LINNAEUS

Little Carl's father, Nils, was an amateur botanist, who taught his five children Latin and encouraged their love of nature. Carl's brother Samuel wrote a manual on beekeeping. The family lived in the small village of

Stenbrohult in Småland, a historical province in southern Sweden.

In his early years, Linnaeus had a fondness for plants, flowers in particular. They were his elixir, and when he was given a flower when he was especially upset, it immediately calmed him. Father and son spent much time in the garden, reciting botanical names, and as soon as it was practical, his father gave the young Linnaeus his own patch of earth where he could grow plants.

Interestingly, Nils was the first in his ancestry to adopt a permanent surname. Previously, Swedes had used a patronymic naming system (names stemming from the paternal line). Nils adopted the surname Linnaeus, the Latinate name of the linden tree that grew on the family homestead.

KNIGHT AND NOBLEMAN CARL VON LINNÉ

During his lifetime, Carl Linnaeus completed 18 editions of *Systema Naturae*, nine editions of *Genera Plantarum*, two editions of *Species Plantarum* and a revised edition of *Fundamenta Botanica*, along with over 50 other publications. Many of these works appeared in countless translations and popular

AND HOW THE 2024 HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK GUIDEBOOK COVER CAME TO BE.

adaptations in all major European languages.

Recognized for his contributions to science, he was knighted in 1762 when King Adolf Frederik titled him Carl von Linné, receiving the German noble mark "von" since there was no mark of nobility in the Swedish language. His last name changed to Linné, with an accent on the "e." Hence, he became Carl von Linné.

THE FATHER OF TAXONOMY

Linnaeus' work inspired countless botanists and explorers to travel the world identifying and collecting plants. His works were of great importance to Charles Darwin's research. Linnaeus' studies of plant hybridization influenced the experimental tradition that led directly to the pea plant experiments of Austrian botanist Gregor Mendel.

Known as the "Father of Taxonomy," uncounted scientific advancements occurred as a result of the brilliant Carolus Linnaeus known among plant people simply by the capital letter "L."

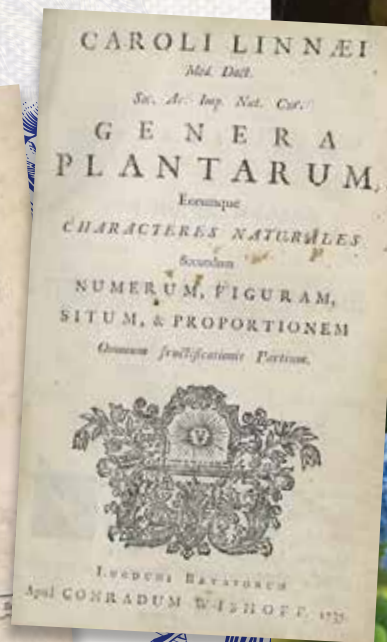
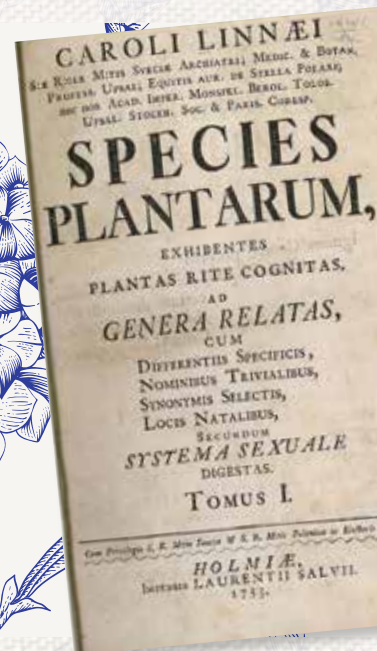
QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO CARL LINNAEUS (1707 - 1778)

"When all the thoughts are concerning one thing and the person loses interest in other things, the melancholy begins."

"If a tree dies, plant another in its place."

"In natural science the principles of truth ought to be confirmed by observation."

Linnaeus and King Adolf photos courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

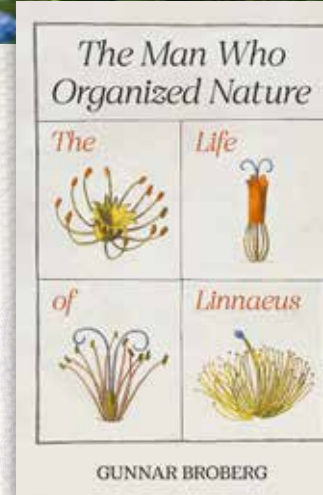


THE MAN WHO ORGANIZED NATURE

By Gunnar Broberg, Princeton University Press, 2023

This revealing biography, by Gunnar Broberg, the world's leading authority on Linnaeus, offers a vivid portrait of Linnaeus' life and work. Drawing on a wide range of previously unpublished sources—including diaries and personal correspondence—as well as new research, it presents revealing and original accounts of his family life and the political context in which he pursued his work. *The Man Who Organized Nature* describes Linnaeus' childhood in a landscape of striking natural beauty and how this influenced his later work. Linnaeus' Lutheran pastor father, knowledgeable about plants and an enthusiastic gardener, helped foster an early interest in botany.

The book examines the political connections that helped Linnaeus secure patronage for his work and untangles his ideas about sexuality. These were not, as often assumed, an attempt to naturalize gender categories but more likely reflected the laissez-faire attitudes of the era. Linnaeus, like many other brilliant scientists, could be moody and egotistical; the book describes his human failings as well as his medical and scientific achievements. Written in an engaging and accessible style, *The Man Who Organized Nature*—one of the only biographies of Linnaeus to appear in English—provides new and fascinating insights into the life of one of history's most consequential and enigmatic scientists.



SPREADING LINNAEUS LOVE

Hydrangea macrophylla (water, big leaf) 'Nikko Blue' is the selected flower for the Garden Club of Virginia's Historic Garden Week 2024. Dozens of spectacular gardens are open across the Commonwealth each year, and many visitors inquire about botanical names of plants featured in these special HGW gardens.

For HGW 2024, spread some "Linnaeus Love" and have your garden club members label plants with their botanical names or station your most knowledgeable horticultural hosts in the gardens. Tell them Linnaeus made you do it! 🌿

— Fran Carden, HGW Chairman, Albemarle Garden Club



More on 'Nikko Blue'

Each year Historic Garden Week celebrates a particular flower featured in its marketing materials. Selecting *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Nikko Blue' was an easy choice. "We photographed the guidebook cover property when the hydrangeas were at their peak," says HGW Chairman Fran Carden, "so it was an obvious winner to grace the 2024 Historic Garden Week poster and *guidebook*."

Hydrangeas mainly flower in shades of blue, pink, purple and white, and they are a plant everyone loves because they are showy and easy to grow. 'Nikko Blue' is definitely a favorite. "It's one of the best shrubs to add color, texture and interest to your garden, and it produces gorgeous blooms to arrange in your home," she continues.

"There are many types of hydrangea: *paniculata*, *macrophylla*, *arborescens*, *quercifolia*, and *petiolaris*, which require different types of pruning or none at all," notes Fran. "Before you prune, determine the type of hydrangea you have and prune accordingly as some bloom on new wood, old wood or both."

It's true, the chemistry of a garden's soil determines the color of a hydrangea. 'Nikko Blue' prefers acidic soil. If the soil is more neutral, the color of the blooms will be pinker. "If you want blue hydrangeas, sprinkle a cup of aluminum sulfate around the plant," Fran instructs. "Here in Virginia, most people do this task in March, April or May." 🌿



Hydrangea photos by Donna Moulton



LINNAEUS - INSPIRED BOTANICAL QUIZ

While plant characteristics are used to name plants, names are given to honor individuals, too. It's the system of botanical nomenclature devised by the 18th-century Swedish biologist Carl Linnaeus, still in use today.

So grab a pencil and test your botanical acumen. Study the Latin names below. Then study the photos. Match the botanical name to the photos, then to the common names on page 31. *No peeking!*

- ___ *Jeffersonia dyphilla*
- ___ *Franklinia alatamaha*
- ___ *Amelanchier bartramiana*
- ___ *Cortinarius jonimitchelliae*
- ___ *Dudleya hendrixii*
- ___ *Japewiella dollypartoniana*
- ___ *Gaga monstraparva*
- ___ *Rebutia einsteinii*
- ___ *Nepenthes attenboroughii*
- ___ *Linnaeosicyos amara*

ANSWERS ARE ON
PAGE 31



JRGC members and friends model their wreaths at the November wreath workshop at Traveler's Rest, L-R, Catherine Bugg and her friend Katherine Kelly, Anne Thompson, Agnes Stillfried, Madeline Mayhood, Sarah Wiley and Madeline's friend Cathy Connon.

GCV DISTRICT 1

The James River Garden Club

RICHMOND

A small band of James River Garden Club members (and some friends) made their way to rural St. Stephen's Church, just west of Tappahannock, for an early November workshop with Agnes Stillfried. The owner of Traveler's Rest Farm and a German Master Florist, Agnes is possibly the world's most creative wreath-maker. Her VA Wreath Maker Etsy site, where she sells her wreaths to an international clientele and ships all over the globe, is swoon-worthy. She forages the Virginia countryside for much of what she uses to make and decorate wreaths—from every possible type of greenery to pine tags, turkey feathers, straw, dried flowers, cones, nuts, seeds, and pods.

She also imports all kinds of decorations and supplies from Europe, and her wreath barn is stacked and packed with bins and tubs full of acorns, antlers, shells, dried fruit, pinecones, nigella pods, and dried mushrooms—to name a few of what she uses to decorate wreaths.



And from the rafters hang all manner of dried material—strawflowers, lavender, leaves, berries, corn cobs, and lots more, just waiting for the perfect wreath to decorate.

"We had the best time," says JRGC member Catherine Bugg, who co-chairs the JRGC-Xtra



Anne Thompson works on her wreath. (right)

Sarah Wiley wires dried orange slices onto her wreath. (far right)



Committee that organized the outing with her partner in crime, Anne Blackwell Thompson. "Agnes is crazy creative, and she was so patient with us newbies," continues Catherine. "She uses a wire wrapping technique and a straw wreath form, and once we got the hang of it, it went smoothly. It was amazing how different everyone's wreath was!"

Vicki Levering, program chairman for The Garden Club of the

Northern Neck, also organized a club wreath-making trip to Agnes's Farm in November. "Agnes wowed our club at our September meeting as our guest speaker, so we wanted to experience wreath making on

our own at her farm," says Vicki. "It was such a great experience. Agnes is so talented and lovely. Plus, her rescue and farm animals are great company too!" VAWreathMaker.com

—Madeline Mayhood



The VFW Picnic with BRGC members Becky Porter, Jane Brooke and Margaret Samdahl, and VFW Commander David Kursoki. (left)

GCV DISTRICT 2



Blue Ridge Garden Club

LEXINGTON

The Blue Ridge Garden Club was honored at the October 7 picnic hosted by Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1499. The club has been caring for the Veterans Memorial Garden on Main Street in Lexington since 2003. Our local veterans showed their appreciation by inviting Blue Ridge Garden Club members to their fall picnic. It was our honor to attend and meet the Rockbridge County veterans.

The Veterans Memorial Garden (right)
Photos courtesy of BR Garden Club



GARDENING GOODS GALORE

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Gardening Goods Galore



NO KINK GARDEN HOSE

For any garden aficionado, Terrain's shopping mecca will have you swooning, and if you actually make the pilgrimage to any of their stores (three are in Pennsylvania), you may never come home. But never fear—their online site is nearly as exciting as a visit. These USA-made hoses are remarkably lightweight and resistant to kinks, cracks and leaks. Plus, they're slim and durable and perfectly sized for patio gardens. Available in three colors—coral, light green and gray—each hose is made from toxin-free polyurethane, and they're lead-, BPA- and phthalate-free and come with rust-proof fittings, so they're safe for people and pets to drink right from the spout. In 50- and 100-foot lengths. From \$65. ShopTerrain.com



GARDEN TRUG

Thomas Smith is a bit of a hero to gardeners worldwide. The inventor of the Royal Sussex Garden Trug in the 1820s, his trug-making techniques date back to Anglo-Saxon times. Today Royal Sussex Trugs is still housed in Smith's original workshop in Herstonceux, in the south-central part of England. Owner Robin Tuppen still employs traditional techniques to make his trugs, using sustainable sweet chestnut, cricket bat willow and Finnish and European birch which he and his team cleave, shave and steam before each trug gets assembled. Garden trugs are not only perfect for garden chores, but they also make fetching centerpieces and magazine or mail caddies. From \$214 and available for additional shipping charges to the U.S. SussexTrugs.com



TRIBAL JOURNAL

Who doesn't love a handsome journal in which to record thoughts, make lists, and plot garden plans? This one, handmade in Tennessee, features loosely woven, uncombed organic cotton fibers, and, with an antique brass snap closure, it also integrates a securely riveted pen loop. The addition of a matching leather swatch riveted to the front cover makes it perfect for personalizing. With 200 pages of deckled-edge paper, 5.75" x 8.5" x 1.5". \$70. RogueJournals.com



BEE ORB

Complement your bright buffet of cosmos, alyssum, and lantana for your local bees with this glass orb, perfect for those busy little pollinators who also need clean drinking water. Its textured surface is designed to catch and hold H2O from your garden hose—just the right amount for thirsty bees to sip. And the shallow mini drinks these bee balls serve up won't run the risk of drowning your guests. Each is 6" in diameter and comes in blue, yellow or orange. \$55. UncommonGoods.com



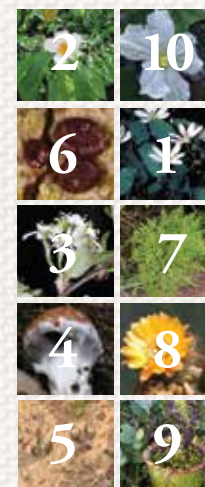
FARMERS SLEEVES

If you've ever pruned a thorny rose bush or been sunburned from working outside, these gardening sleeves might have saved you from a slew of nasty pokes and blisters. They're made from REPREVE® polyester and recycled materials, and in addition to wicking moisture, they protect vulnerable arms from the sun's damaging UVA rays. Plus, they come in fun designs like Fungi Foragers, Dragonfly Meadows, Ladybug, and Save the Bees. In sizes XS-XXL, \$27. FarmersDefense.com



PLANT NATIVE T-SHIRT

For plant lovers and those with a passion for biodiversity, spread the "Plant Native" mantra among family and friends and throughout your community. This pollinator-friendly message is on a comfy tee-shirt in six colors and a multitude of sizes. Available for \$28 from Dandelion Bridge on Etsy. Etsy.com



LINNAEUS-INSPIRED BOTANICAL QUIZ ANSWER KEY

1. **Thomas Jefferson;** common name: twinleaf
2. **Benjamin Franklin;** common name: Franklin tree
3. **John Bartram;** Carl Linnaeus called him the "greatest natural botanist in the world," common name: North American serviceberry
4. **Joni Mitchell;** Canadian singer-songwriter; mushroom
5. **Jimi Hendrix;** musician; succulent
6. **Dolly Parton;** musician; lichen
7. **Lady Gaga;** musician, actress; one of 19 fern species meaning "little monsters," a name Gaga lovingly calls her fans.
8. **Dr. Albert Einstein;** world-renowned scientist; a cactus
9. **David Attenborough;** naturalist; a tropical pitcher plant
10. **Carl von Linné;** botanical superstar; a little-known cucurbit (in the gourd family) endemic to the Caribbean island of Hispaniola.

Quiz found on page 27



GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA

Historic Garden Week

TOURS STATEWIDE

April 20-27, 2024

Proceeds fund the restoration of Virginia's historic public gardens and a research fellowship program.



*Hydrangea
macrophylla
'Nikko Blue'*

For a complete listing of tours and to purchase tickets, please visit [VaGardenWeek.org](https://www.vagardenweek.org)

SAVE THE DATES

2024

- January 9 | Basic photography composition workshop; Zoom, 4:00 p.m.
- January 22 | Cultivating Conversations: Unraveling the mystery of entering a photography show; Zoom, 5:00 p.m.
- January 31 | GCV Legislative Day
- February 26 | Cultivating Conversations: How to enter horticulture in a member club flower show; Zoom, 5:00 p.m.
- March 18 | Cultivating Conversations: Conservation Fellowship Program; Zoom, 5:00 p.m.
- March 27 | Daffodil Day, Virginia Beach
- April 20-27 | Historic Garden Week
- May 21-23 | GCV Annual Meeting, Charlottesville
- June 4-5 | Horticulture Field Day, Leesburg
- June 11 | GCV Presidents' Day
- June 12-13 | HGW Boot Camp, Richmond

SUBMIT YOUR ARTWORK

Featuring the work of GCV artists on the cover of the *Journal* is a long-standing and much anticipated tradition. Our issues mirror the seasons—spring, summer, fall, winter—and cover art corresponds to those seasons accordingly. If you'd like your artwork to be considered, please email high-resolution jpg files to journal@gcvirginia.org.



GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA

CULTIVATING CONVERSATIONS



New! Free! GCV Members-Only Monthly Virtual Learning Series, presented by member experts. Each session will feature small group discussions and a Q&A session with our subject expert(s) and promises to delight and inspire conversation between fellow nature-lovers. Our next session is **Unraveling the mystery of entering a photography show** from **5-6:00 p.m., via Zoom on January 22.** Registration is required. Visit [GCVirginia.org](https://www.GCVirginia.org).



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