

FROM Stratford Hall Plantation in Tidewater, birthplace of Robert E. Lee, to Woodrow Wilson's birthplace in the Shenandoah Valley, from the majesty of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello outside Charlottesville to the simple spire of Fincastle Presbyterian Church in rural Botetourt County, from sweeping terraced views of James Madison's Montpelier to the white-fenced cottage garden where George Washington's mother spent her last years, the Garden Club of Virginia continues to restore a vital segment of Virginia's splendid landscape.

The Garden Club of Virginia is an active association of 47 member clubs, whose members together form a group of more than 3,300 community and civic leaders. The mission of the Garden Club is to conserve Virginia's natural resources, to inspire a love of gardening, to provide education for our members and the general public, and to restore historic gardens and landscapes. The success of this last goal has made the Garden Club of Virginia synonymous with garden restoration in the Commonwealth and in the Nation.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Garden Club of America have both recognized the Garden Club of Virginia with awards for excellence in restoration and preservation.

While there is great variation in the types of gardens and landscapes undertaken by the Garden Club, some basic principles apply to all of them. Each garden must be open to the public on a regular basis. The property's governing body requests help from the Garden Club and must both approve the project and agree to maintain it. From the beginning, the Garden Club of Virginia has engaged professional landscape architects to plan and oversee the restorations. From the beginning, also, it has made every effort to hold to the highest standards of historic preservation. Where the property and the level of documentation warrant it, landscapes may be restored to a specific period; in some cases a setting suitable for a historic building may be provided; in other cases a simplification of the historic scene or the preservation of layered changes to a landscape over time may be more appropriate.

## Historic Garden Week

The Garden Club of Virginia's restorations are funded largely with proceeds from Historic Garden Week in Virginia, a nine-day statewide open house of private homes and gardens and public landmarks, from the Atlantic to the Appalachians. During the last week in April each year, more than 30,000 tourists from all over America and from many foreign countries travel to Virginia for this outstanding event.



In 1929, only nine years after eight garden clubs from across the state came together to form the Garden Club of Virginia, the organization decided to open private houses and gardens to raise money to restore the garden and grounds at Kenmore in Fredericksburg. Members of all clubs cooperated to make it an astounding success, bringing in more than \$14,000 for the first garden restoration. Since then, Historic Garden Week in Virginia has realized more than twelve million dollars and enabled the Garden Club of Virginia to restore gardens at more than 40 historic properties.

Historic Garden Week is headquartered at the Kent-Valentine House, 12 East Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. For information, visit [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org); or email to [gdnweek@verizon.net](mailto:gdnweek@verizon.net); or telephone 804 644-7776. An extensive guidebook is available in early February each year for the April tours.

## Other Achievements

The Garden Club of Virginia has been cited for achievements in horticulture and conservation and for the wide variety of civic beautification projects undertaken by its 47 member clubs. Each year, the Garden Club sponsors three major flower shows staged by member clubs in rotation throughout the Commonwealth. The annual daffodil, rose, and lily shows attract exhibitors from the entire mid-Atlantic region and include artistic as well as horticulture classes.

The Conservation Committee was the first state-wide committee appointed within the Garden Club of Virginia. Since 1922 its members have been active in promoting roadside beauty and stemming the proliferation of billboards. The committee keeps the membership informed on environmental issues directly related to the natural and historic resources of the Commonwealth of Virginia and encourages education through its workshops and forums. It also presents awards to recognize and encourage achievements in conservation.

## How to Visit Virginia's Historic Gardens

The gardens are listed here alphabetically. Numbers are keyed to the Virginia map. All of the gardens listed in this directory are operated and maintained locally. All are open to the public, but some have seasonal closings, and hours vary for each site. It is a good idea to contact gardens by telephone to inquire about hours before visiting.

# The Gardens of Virginia

RESTORED BY THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

### Bacon's Castle 1

A RARE EXAMPLE OF JACOBEAN ARCHITECTURE. GARDEN RESTORED TO 1680S FORM BASED ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE. SURRY. ☎ 757-357-5976

### Belle Grove 2

EARLY NINETEENTH-CENTURY MANSION AND GROUNDS. MIDDLETOWN. ☎ 540-869-2028

### Belmont 3

ARTISTS' GARDENS RETURNED TO THE SPLENDOR OF THE 20S AND 30S. FREDERICKSBURG. ☎ 540-654-1015

### Bruton Parish Church 4

ANCIENT BURIAL GROUND RESTORED WITH NEW WALKS AND PLANTINGS. WILLIAMSBURG. ☎ 757-229-2891

### Burwell-Morgan Mill 5

PARK SETTING FOR OLDEST OPERABLE MERCHANT MILL IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY. MILLWOOD. ☎ 540-837-1799

### Centre Hill Mansion 6

GREEK REVIVAL HOUSE AMIDST REPLANTED GROUNDS. PETERSBURG. ☎ 804-733-2401

### Christ Church-Lancaster 7

SIMPLY LANDSCAPED CHURCH YARD AND GROUNDS INCLUDE A CEDAR-LINED WALK. IRVINGTON. ☎ 804-438-6855

### Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History 8

RESTORATION OF SUTHERLIN HOUSE'S PERIMETER FENCE TO ORIGINAL APPEARANCE. DANVILLE. ☎ 434-793-5644

### Executive Mansion Capitol Square 9

RESTORATION OF 1953 DESIGN BY CHARLES GILLETTE. RICHMOND. ☎ 804-371-2642

### Fincastle Presbyterian Church 10

NINETEENTH-CENTURY CHURCH RESTORED WITH APPROPRIATE PLANTINGS. FINCASTLE. ☎ 540-473-2042

### Grace Arents Garden 11

VICTORIAN-STYLE GARDEN RESTORED BASED ON ORIGINAL EARLY-1900S DESIGN. RICHMOND. ☎ 804-262-9887

### Historic Portsmouth Courthouse 12

BRICK COURTYARD SETTING SUITABLE FOR 1846 COURTHOUSE. PORTSMOUTH. ☎ 757-393-8543

### Historic St. Luke's Church 13

THE GROUNDS OF A SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY CHURCH, THE OLDEST EXISTING CHURCH OF ENGLISH FOUNDATION IN AMERICA, FOUNDED IN 1632. SMITHFIELD. ☎ 757-357-3367

### Hollins University 14

RESTORATION OF 1930S BEALE GARDEN TO HONOR ALUMNA LUCY PRESTON BEALE. ROANOKE. ☎ 800-456-9595

### Kenmore 15

BUILT IN THE 1770S BY FIELDING AND BETTY WASHINGTON LEWIS. FREDERICKSBURG. ☎ 540-373-3381

### Kent-Valentine House 16

HEADQUARTERS FOR THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA AND HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK. RICHMOND. ☎ 804-643-4137

### Ker Place 17

FEDERAL STYLE HOUSE WITH LONG GARDEN WALK AND ARBORS. ONANCOCK. ☎ 757-787-8012

### Lee Hall 18

1859 ITALIANATE MANOR HOUSE AND GROUNDS. NEWPORT NEWS. ☎ 757-888-3371

### Mary Washington House 19

HOME AND COTTAGE GARDEN OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MOTHER. FREDERICKSBURG. ☎ 540-373-1569

### Mary Washington Monument 20

MONUMENT MARKING MARY WASHINGTON'S GRAVE IN LANDSCAPE SETTING. FREDERICKSBURG. ☎ 540-372-1086

### Maymont 21

LANDSCAPE EXPRESSES THE SPLENDOR OF THE AMERICAN GILDED AGE. 1893. RICHMOND. ☎ 804-358-7166

### Monticello 22

SURROUNDED BY GARDENS RESTORED TO JEFFERSON'S OWN 1807 PLAN. CHARLOTTESVILLE. ☎ 434-984-9822

### Montpelier 23

RESTORATION OF DUPONT-ERA GARDEN ON THE SITE OF JAMES MADISON'S ORIGINAL TERRACED GARDEN. MONTPELIER STATION. ☎ 540-672-2728

### Moses Myers House 24

GARDEN SETTING FOR FINE FEDERAL PERIOD HOUSE OF PROMINENT JEWISH FAMILY. NORFOLK. ☎ 757-441-1526

### Mount Vernon 25

HOME OF GEORGE WASHINGTON ON THE POTOMAC WITH RESTORED BOWLING GREEN. MOUNT VERNON. ☎ 703-780-2000

### Oatlands 26

BUILT BY GEORGE CARTER IN THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY, SURROUNDED BY TERRACED GARDENS. LEESBURG. ☎ 703-777-3174

### Point-of-Honor 27

RESTORED LANDSCAPE FOR FEDERAL PERIOD HOUSE. LYNCHBURG. ☎ 434-455-6226

### Smith's Fort Plantation 28

LANDSCAPE SETTING FOR EARLY EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY HOUSE. SURRY. ☎ 757-294-3872

### St. John's Mews 29

RICHLY PLANTED OLD CITY ALLEY WITH CAST IRON PAVILION. RICHMOND. ☎ 804-643-7407

### State Arboretum of Virginia - Blandly Experimental Farm 30

RESTORATION OF A ONE-HALF MILE LONG STONE WALL ALONG THE HISTORIC DOGWOOD WALK. BOYCE. ☎ 540-837-1758

### Stratford Hall 31

BIRTHPLACE OF ROBERT E. LEE WITH RESTORED GARDEN. STRATFORD. ☎ 804-493-8038

### Sweet Briar College 32

EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY SWEET BRIAR HOUSE AND GROUNDS, HOME OF THE COLLEGE'S PRESIDENT. SWEET BRIAR. ☎ 434-381-6100

### University of Virginia 33

TEN PAVILION GARDENS ENCLOSED BY SERPENTINE WALLS. CHARLOTTESVILLE. ☎ 434-924-7969

### Washington and Lee University 34

LEE CHAPEL AND THE GARDEN OF LEE HOUSE. LEXINGTON. ☎ 540-463-8460

### Wilton 35

EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY GEORGIAN HOUSE WITH TERRACED GARDENS. RICHMOND. ☎ 804-282-5936

### Woodlawn 36

FEDERAL PERIOD MANSION WITH FORMAL GARDEN AND GARDEN HOUSE. ALEXANDRIA. ☎ 703-780-4000

### Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library 37

INTRICATE GARDEN OF TERRACES AND PARTERRE GARDENS. STAUNTON. ☎ 540-885-0897

