



The Garden Club of Virginia exists to celebrate the beauty of the land, to conserve the gifts of nature and to challenge future generations to build on this heritage.

## FROM THE EDITOR

Producing the quarterly GCV *Journal* is a team effort. The *Journal* cover editor is always searching for talented club member artists to showcase their original artwork. The board of directors and chairmen of standing committees submit articles and announcements about the work of the GCV – horticulture, conservation and beautification, restoration, Historic Garden Week, flower shows, awards, development, book reviews, history, membership, nominations, Virginia state parks, fall symposium and other special events. Representatives from our 47 member clubs send in club notes about their clubs' initiatives. Club database chairmen keep the database accurate and up-to-date so that members receive their copies. The *Journal* advertising chairman solicits businesses throughout Virginia to contribute, as well as publicizing club events. The *Journal* editorial board and the GCV communications coordinator edit the text, and the GCV photographer shoots the photographs. After several proofs, the issue is off to the printer. Then the process starts again.

Please consider joining our team with a contribution to your Journal.

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## The Garden Club of Virginia Journal

The Garden Club of Virginia *Journal* (USPS 574-520, ISSN 0431-0233) is published four times a year for members by the GCV, 12 East Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219. Periodical postage paid in Richmond, VA. Single issue price, \$5.00.

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Copy and ad deadlines: January 15 for the March issue April 15 for the June issue July 15 for the September issue October 15 for the December issue *Email copy to the Editor and advertising to the Advertising Chairman.* 

#### Journal Ad Rates

Size	Dimensions	Rate
Full page	4 ½" x 7 ½"	\$500
2/3 page	4 ½" x 5"	\$375
1/2 page	2 ¼" x 7 ½"	\$250
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1/3 page	4 ½" x 2 ½"	\$200
1/4 page	2 ¼" x 3 ¾"	\$135

**Discounts:** 15% discount will apply, if advertising in all four publications

50% discount to GCV member clubs advertising a club event.

Vol. LXIV, No. 1 Printed on recycled paper by Carter Printing Company Richmond, VA



#### ON THE COVER...

In "Augusta Chase," Nan Mahone Wellborn of the Roanoke Valley Garden Club captures in oil the ephemeral promise of springtime in the Blue Ridge.

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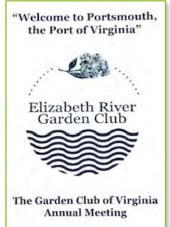
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## Preserving the Vision of the Elizabeth River Garden Club

by Anne Kenny The Elizabeth River Garden Club

s it enters its 92nd year, the Elizabeth River Garden Club continues to maintain the vision of its founding members. That vision, to contribute to and assist in the beautification of the City of Portsmouth, has been extended to include conserving the city's resources, fostering the knowledge of horticulture and flower arranging, and preserving and restoring its parks and gardens.

Over the years the club has given time, financial support and talent to the development and maintenance of Portsmouth's public parks. From creating the city's first public park in its downtown to assisting with the transformation of an industrial wasteland into an environmentally friendly park,



the club has been committed to bringing nature back to urban areas. It was awarded the 2018 Common Wealth Award to complete an outdoor classroom on the site of Paradise Creek Nature Park.

In 1975, the Elizabeth River Garden Club was sponsored by the Nansemond River Garden Club to become the 45th member of the Garden Club of Virginia. The club's first Historic Garden Week tour in Olde Towne Portsmouth was co-hosted with its sponsoring club, and now Elizabeth River, Nansemond River and the Franklin garden clubs are co-hosting the tour.

A major club fundraiser has been the production and publication of two books on flower arranging. *Styles of Flower Arranging: A Primer* and *Styles of Flower Arranging: Contemporary Designs* are influential in expanding the variety of styles of flower arrangements on the GCV flower shows' schedules and have been well-received nationally.

Notably, in 1980, the GCV selected the Historic Portsmouth Courthouse yard as one of its restoration projects. Since 2000, seven club members have received the Garden Club of Virginia Horticulture Award of Merit and, in 2006, the director of Hoffler Creek Park, a club project, won the Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award for Conservation.

Proud of its accomplishments, Elizabeth River will host the GCV Annual Meeting May 7-9, 2019. GCV club leaders will receive a big Welcome to Portsmouth, the Port of Virginia, and the opportunity to enjoy its history and hospitality. \*



 Introducing 'Green Arrow,' a new daffodil honoring the 100th anniversary of the Garden Club of Virginia.

Learn more and stay informed with updates at GCVirginia.org/DaffodilDay

## In Memoriam 2018

Lee Penny Baker Katherine Darden Beale Margaret Page Bemiss Nancy Jane Van Zandt Bolton Alice Baker Borrelli Susan Wiatt Briggs Frances Bailey Brooke Ronald "Ron" Brown Jane Ogden Butler Ruth Dyer Groves Chaney Elizabeth "Betsy" Herndon Cox Mary McNamara Curtis Virginia Puller Dabney Brenda Bradshaw Daughtrey Jeanne Moore Engleby Patricia German Falcon Mary Nolde Foster Martha McEwen Frank Margaret Gale Frizzell Travis Bell Garris Mary Welby Garrison Margaret "Peggy" Ellett Guy Joyce Johnson Hendrickson Rebecca "Becky" Royall Hill Mary Speake Humelsine Jody Armstrong Strader Jones Frances Gunn Kemper Joni Albert Lawler

Frances Fletcher Lea Elizabeth "Betty" Wright Leggett Linda Baker Light Frances Martin Lindsay Marjorie Ellen Hayter Masek Ann Lohmann Mateer Rexanne Davis Metzger Jean Critz Morris Mary Sue Strupe Neal Linda Draper Newton Kathryn "Kitty" Lee Maddux Quarles Barbara Price Freeman Ragsdale Elizabeth "Betty" Clark Roberts Jane Whitehill Rotch Anne Motley Ryland Vera Dickens Sackett Betty Gwaltney Schutte Carolyn Weddell Scott Sandra Churchill Shield Frances Chase Simmons Kathleen "Kitty" Dawson Snead Nancy McAllister Sutcliffe Nancy Holland Tucker Frances Boushall Valentine Helen Bugg Vaughan Elizabeth Johnston Witt Dawn Daniel Woltz Pearl Payne Zigler

In Memoriam lists the names of Garden Club of Virginia members who have died within the past year, compiled by the Journal from names submitted by club presidents.



# Micromosalc

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IMAGE **Parrot**, Rome, 19th century, unidentified artist, micromosaic set in gold as a pendant, with four sets of 4-mm tsavorite and 2.7-mm demantoid garnets on bezel; 50 x 45 mm. Collection of Elizabeth Locke



## Rain Gardens

by Kaye Moomaw Hillside Garden Club

Solution ince so much rain has fallen across the state, Virginians may be wondering how to decrease the areas in their landscapes that now look like streams. One way to channel runoff is by building a rain garden, a depressed area in the landscape with many benefits to the environment. When hard surface areas like pavement or sidewalks are replaced with the mixed, naturalistic plantings characteristic of rain gardens, the speed with which water flows over ground and into both storm water and natural lakes and streams is decreased. Slowing the water allows it to infiltrate the soil and shed some of its toxins. Much of the storm water is percolated into the soil through small passageways left in the soil from both microbiotic life and the root growth of various plants and trees.

The water that is entering the water cycle also cools in temperature in the rain garden, a benefit to both algae and animal life in the streams. Reducing hard surfaces also makes yards cooler in the heat of summer as hard surfaces retain heat and give off warmth. Moreover, rain gardens reduce the need for fertilizer, water, energy and maintenance while increasing the wildlife and habitat areas. They are designed to mimic the natural water cycle so that the absorption, transpiration and evaporation occurring in the area should be completed in 72 hours. This prevents mosquitoes from breeding.

A rain garden has six elements. The first is a grass buffer strip around it that serves to slow the flow of water as it enters. Within this buffer, the garden is planted with trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals that stabilize and use the water and are able to tolerate wet feet briefly. It is not necessary to remove or damage tree roots for this installation. This area is then mulched to provide cover for microorganisms and to keep the garden moist until the plants mature. Then there is a soil layer for collection of water and nutrients to sustain the plants. It includes a pond area or depression, no more than six to eight inches deeper than the ground level around it for short-term storm water retention. Lastly, there needs to be a small, six-inch berm that acts like a dam to facilitate pooling and to prevent water from running straight through the rain garden.

Resources online can help to calculate how large the rain garden should be for each yard. The garden should be sited at least 10 feet from the foundation of a building. It should not be located in a place where water is already pooling. \$\$



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MARCH 2019

## Nominations

Nominations for Directors-at-Large to serve from May 2019 - May 2021

The membership will vote at the May 2019 Annual Meeting.

**District 2: Fran Carden** (Albemarle Garden Club)

**District 5: Laura Francis** (The Hunting Creek Garden Club)

**District 6: Debbie Bonnewell** (Harborfront Garden Club)



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## Tuckhoe Garden Club

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Presale forms available www.tuckahoegardenclub.com

Club Notes

Trail Bridge for Sky Meadows State Park by Kathi Lindquist The Warrenton Garden Club

n keeping with a Garden Club of Virginia centennial initiative, members of the Warrenton Garden Club gathered on Nov. 30, 2018, to present a donation to representatives of Sky Meadows State Park. Laure Wallace of the Friends of Sky Meadows State Park and Park Manager Tim Skinner accepted the gift, which will



provide funds for a bridge on the park's Sensory Explorers' Trail for the visually and physically impaired. The trail will include an audio tour and signage covering topics such as flora, fauna, geology and history, with an engineered wood surface and side rails. The goal for completion is spring of 2019.

The Warrenton Garden Club is proud to make this contribution through its Children's Education Fund, made possible by the generous contributions of club members. The club plans to follow the trail's progress and spread awareness of this new asset to an already bountiful state park. \* Daffodil Notes Becoming a Horticulture Judge by Fran Carden, GCV Daffodil Committee Albemarle Garden Club

Ready to take your love of horticulture to the next level? Consider becoming a horticulture judge. While easier said than done, the process of studying with capable peers, learning from enthusiastic teachers and judging with brilliant horticulturalists is challenging and gratifying.

While the Garden Club of Virginia does not offer a specific horticulture judge accreditation program, as is available for flower arranging, there is an "Exhibiting and Judging Club Horticulture" manual on the GCV website, which provides helpful suggestions for club shows. The GCV has many members who are accredited judges in specific plant societies, such as the American Daffodil Society, the American Rose Society and the North American Lily Society. These and the more than 35 other plant societies offer training, qualifying, accrediting and refreshing courses for horticulture judges. Whether you choose to study one type of plant or multitudes, there is an organization for you.

To become a judge you, of course, need to grow and show flowers. Studying plant anatomy, optimal growing conditions, pest control, grooming and exhibiting will enhance your passions. While these judging programs require several years of learning for completion, you gain more than just knowledge. You build beautiful friendships with classmates as you cram for the test requiring you to identify and color code 50 daffodil stems. You laugh with your instructors as you describe in imaginative words the petal of a daffodil. You stare down the corona of a daffodil with your favorite judge, loving every moment of the process. That's the benefit of the judging programs.

Participating in a judging program creates the horticulture ripple effect. You enter more flower shows, read and write more schedules, plan horticulture workshops, encourage friends to participate and grow more varieties of plants in your garden.

Ready to begin? The American Daffodil Society's Judging School I begins on April 5 in Gloucester, so sign up today. Not ready, but tempted? Review the schedule for the GCV Daffodil Day, talk to a horticulture judge in your club, add a club flower show to your program or host a grooming and exhibiting workshop for your club.

The renowned author, horticulture and flower arranging judge Esther Veramae Hamel believes that "judges must have courage!" Do you? 🕸

#### References and information:

GCV "Exhibiting and Judging Club Horticulture"

https://gcvirginia.org/warehouse/fm/documents/horticulture/ ExhibitorsHorticultureManual.pdf

ADS Judging School I, April 5, 2019, Gloucester, Va.; contact Peggy Bowditch (peggyb72@gmail.com)

*The Encyclopedia of Judging and Exhibiting Floriculture and Flora - Artistry* by Esther Veramae Hamel

The American Horticultural Society A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants edited by Christopher Brickell and H. Marc Cathey

Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging: A Supplement to the National Garden Clubs Inc. Handbook for Flower Shows by National Garden Clubs Inc.

## Deadline is June 1 for Conservation Awards Dugdale Award and Conservation Educator Award

by Heidi James, GCV Conservation Awards Committee Chairman The Lynchburg Garden Club

Please consider submitting nominations for two prestigious Garden Club of Virginia awards, due on June 1, 2019. These awards will be presented at the GCV Conservation Forum in September. They are:

*The Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award for Meritorious Achievement in Conservation* This award was first presented in 1974 and, in 1989, was named for Mrs. Arthur A. Dugdale of the Ashland Garden Club, who was the originator of the Conservation Forum. It is presented annually for outstanding work in conservation to an organization, industry or an individual who is not a GCV member.

#### The Conservation Educator Award

Established in 2016, this award recognizes individuals or organizations whose work in an educational environment supports the conservation ideals of the GCV.

Proposals should be sent to the GCV Communications Coordinator at 12 East Franklin St., Richmond, 23219 or communications@gcvirginia.org. Nominations are to be postmarked by June 1 or received electronically by 5 p.m. on June 1. Former nominees not selected may be resubmitted. This is a wonderful way to recognize important work in the field of conservation. \$\$



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www.JamesRiverGardenClub.org

## **Green Arrow Society**

GCV Grateful

by Mina Wood, GCV Development Committee The Lynchburg Garden Club

aving just returned from a joint meeting of the Lynchburg Garden Club and Hillside Garden Club, where Director of Horticulture at Mount Vernon Dean Norton spoke about the detailed plans and plantings of the gardens there, I am filled with gratitude for all of the stimulating opportunities offered by the Garden Club of Virginia.

Aside from family and friends, I am most thankful for the relationships that have developed over the years through my travels and committee assignments. They have served to educate me and broaden my appreciation of horticulture, conservation, historic gardens and flower arranging.

In 2000, my best friend was Bessie Bocock Carter, of the James River Garden Club, who fed and housed many of us as she shared humorous tales about herself and delighted us with her culinary talents – "just a few leftovers," she would say.

Margaret Bemiss, also of the James River Garden Club, wrote the entire text for our *Historic Virginia Gardens: Preservation Work of the Garden Club of Virginia*, one of the GCV's most widely circulated books. Margaret was up to the task and cheerfully undertook the arduous job of writing a book – what a gift to this organization.

Betty Schutte (Winchester-Clarke Garden Club) made innumerable trips between Boyce and Richmond to oversee the renovation and construction projects at the Kent-Valentine House. Mary Hart Darden (Nansemond River Garden Club) launched the GCV into the world of cyberspace when we thought car phones our absolute coolest possessions. Deedy Bumgardner (Augusta Garden Club) and I went on a two-week GCV garden tour to Italy and became great friends. Several years later we are the mutual grandparents of three wonderful children.

I continue to be inspired. The 2018 Fall Symposium at the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond was awesome. Chip Calloway's talk and the demonstration by two florists from Memphis were superb. The horticulture display and artistic divisions were magnificent – and the boutique was fully subscribed.

The 2018 Conservation Forum held in Charlottesville in October was over-thetop. It inspired and energized us all with four outstanding speakers who emphasized organic gardening practices, but also encouraged tactful communication with regard to differing viewpoints and circumstances.

The rewards of working in the GCV, and the friends made, far outweigh the inconvenience of travel. Many problems get solved in a two-hour car ride and the conversation is lively. It is all there for you when the time is right.

In gratitude for my GCV experience, I have made a planned gift to the Garden Club of Virginia and am a member of the Green Arrow Society. I hope some of you will consider doing likewise. \$ "The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit." - Nelson Henderso

rrow Jocietu

N amed for one of the Garden Club of Virginia's most enduring and familiar symbols, the Green Arrow Society is a group of loyal members and friends who are supporting the GCV's future with planned gifts. Planned gifts offer financial flexibility, tax advantages and a way to make substantial grants without depleting income or retirement assets. We are grateful to our donors who have chosen to leave a lasting legacy by generously including the Garden Club of Virginia in their estate plans. If you have made such a gift, please let us know so that we may properly acknowledge you in our next *Year In Review*.

Make an enduring gift and help the Garden Club of Virginia carry its mission into the next century. Contact Lexie Haglund, GCV director of development, for more information or to inform us of your gift. 804.643.4137



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MARCH 2019

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## GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA AT 100



## 1920-2020

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Learn more and stay informed with updates at GCVirginia.org/Centennial

## **Delightful Discoveries**

by Amy Walker, Historic Garden Week District 4 Chairman Chatham Garden Club

For Historic Garden Week attendees, our many tours can be exciting, inspiring and just plain fun. Visitors have access to private homes and beautiful gardens. Amazed by the beauty of the properties featured, guests are often motivated by an idea they want to replicate. This is the experience we, as club members and tour creators, seek each spring. A memorable event will delight our guests and encourage them to return year after year.

This experience is not limited to attendees. Club members benefit during the process of planning and production. Every year I find an unexpected nugget that I take with me – a newly discovered garden plant, a novel way to arrange pictures on a wall, a combination of flowers used in an arrangement, the paint color in a room - the list goes on and on. I received my annual Historic Garden Week treat early in the process this year, and it exceeds any previous one.

This year's tour, co-hosted by the Garden Club of Danville, Gabriella Garden Club, and Chatham Garden Club, includes properties in Milton, N.C., which is barely over the Virginia border and only 16 miles from tour headquarters. Established in 1764, Milton's most notable resident was Thomas Day, a free black furniture craftsman and cabinetmaker. Day moved to Milton in 1817 and established what would become the largest and most productive workshop in the state in the 1850s. His work was sought after at that time, and today is highly prized and showcased in many museums.

What is my big discovery for the 2019 tour? The woodwork in my own home is the work of Thomas Day. While touring the featured properties, we visited Woodside, which is known for its Thomas Day mantels and woodwork. To my shock, I noticed a mantel that was exactly like one in my 1847 home. I recognized the same casework and other features that replicated what was in my home, and decided to confirm whether

my home's woodwork was truly the work of this famous artisan, or that of a copycat.

I was thrilled to find that my woodwork is the work of Thomas Day. To say this was an unexpected and delightful revelation is putting it lightly, and I screamed out loud when I received the email confirmation. I would have never known had I not visited Woodside, which I only did because of Historic Garden Week. \$



Thomas Day mantel at Woodside

## Historic Garden Week Contin Active restoration sites, a April 27 – N

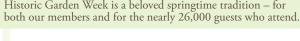
Historic Garden Week underwrites 41 active restoration sites, a historic landscape research fellowship and, in the past four years, 38 grants to Virginia's State Parks.



The railroad town of Ashland is characterized by houses both quaint and grand.

Learn more at va

Perched among treetops, this on the Roanoke to





County roads wind past horse farms and a new cidery on the way to properties on the Lexington tour, which includes access to Natural Bridge State Park.



Visitors will stroll the windi pathways of Virginia Beac newest seaside communi An example of New Urbanis a design movement th promotes environmenta friendly, walkal neighborhoods, tour hom are built around the new renovated Cavalier Hot

Historic Garden Week would not be possible without the hard work of our 3,300 members, countless volunteers and sponsors, and the 156 private homeowners opening their properties to the public this spring.

2019 Donn

## ues to Keep Virginia Beautiful Aay 4, 2019

agardenweek.org





Virginia includes four different zones, so the unseasonably warm weather this winter is good news to some clubs whose gardens aren't normally as far along during this statewide event.

five-bedroom glass and stone bome ur was designed in 1954.



ty. m, at

es

ly

Gloucester tour visitors will enjoy Sweetgrass, a Low Country-style home which looks across the Severn River to Warner Hall, George Washington's great-greatgrandfather's estate.





The McLean tour includes private gardens with fountains and sculptures, as well as landscapes with mature trees, including the oldest and largest sycamore tree in Fairfax County. A Civil War-era ordinary is showcased.

our photos courtesy of many generous and talented GCV members and friends, including a Moulton, Lockwood McLaughlin, Sandy Geiger, Becky Giles, Sharptop Studios and Diane Stoakley.

## Restoration's Maintenance Workshop

by Anne Baldwin, GCV Restoration Committee Chairman The Garden Club of Alexandria

Every other year, the Restoration Committee invites representatives from the Garden Club of Virginia restoration properties to join us for a maintenance workshop. On Jan. 10, 2019, about 80 maintenance workers, gardeners and heads of the properties came to the Kent-Valentine House for a day of learning featuring three guest speakers. After the opening welcome, GCV Landscape Architect Will Rieley gave a helpful review of the Restoration Committee policies. Each restoration project involves a gift with the expectation of an ongoing relationship with the GCV. We offer guidelines for successful maintenance of our restorations and give each property a copy of the GCV "Garden Maintenance Manual."



Will Rieley and Elaine Burden, Restoration Committee member, Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club

Our first speaker was Peggy Cornett, curator of plants at Monticello, whose topic was historic plants. Peggy started at Monticello in 1983 and, from 1992-2009, served as the director of the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants. Inspired by Jefferson's lifetime passion for plants, Peggy gave a wonderful presentation including photos of Jefferson's garden journal, a calendar documenting when his flowers bloomed, as well as photos of many of his favorite plants. She also shared information about the Monticello Garden Explorer, an exciting resource allowing gardeners to access the database and view plants.

A lively presentation about the art of pruning shrubs and trees was given by Peter Deahl, a co-founder of the Pruning School and owner of FinePruning. Peter is an ISA-certified arborist and has spent more than 20 years developing an expertise in the pruning of boxwood, Japanese maples and azaleas. Peter stressed beginning with the right plant in the right place. He suggested that it is always best to prune with two people, one to cut and one to watch. His slides showed how he prunes from the bottom and allows light to get inside.

Dan Gregg, who founded Grelen Nursery in 1990, was the final speaker. Grelen Nursery supplies many of the plants for restoration projects. His talk focused on firstyear plant care and began with successful planting and emphasized the importance of watering. Dan shared tips for handling boxwood blight and suggested using only your own equipment that is not shared.

In addition to learning from and talking with our speakers, another benefit for attendees is meeting each other and sharing information. The Restoration Committee is grateful for the men and women who maintain the gardens. \$\$

The Editorial Board welcomes submissions and reserves the right to edit them.

Rose Notes

by Patsy Smith, GCV Rose Chairman Winchester-Clarke Garden Club



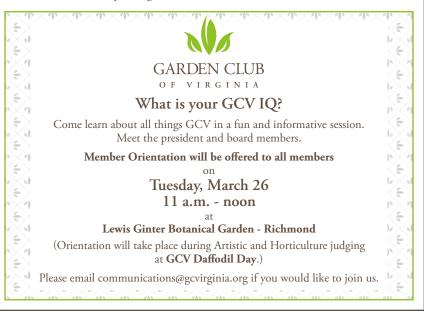
hoosing a rose that is known to do well where one lives is a step toward success and helps to dispel the fears of first-time

growers. Consider the objectives. Is it a rose for landscaping or cutting? How much gardening time and space are available? Low maintenance does not mean no maintenance.

The American Garden Rose Selections program includes 12 rose test gardens across the United States. Roses are evaluated for two years for excellence in disease resistance, bloom and foliage. Virginia is divided into northeast and southeast growing regions. The rose choices for the northeast are 'Coral Knock Out",' Icecap, 'Lady of Shalott,' 'Peachy Knock Out", 'Promise,' Tahitian Treasure and 'Thomas Affleck.' Southeast choices are 'Coral Knock Out", 'Faith Whittlesey,' 'Lady of Shalott,' 'Peachy Knock Out", 'Look-A-Likes" Phloxy Baby,' 'Promise' and Tahitian Treasure.

At a recent American Rose Society show, I talked with a winning exhibitor from Michigan who grew all his roses in large pots. The roses were pruned and moved into his garage during the hard winters. In spring, the pots were attractively placed in the garden for best growing conditions. Climbers can be planted and trained to grow into trees. Drift roses are fantastic ground cover roses that are compact and don't require much care. Miniatures are great potted or planted as a border.

Due to the extreme amount of moisture received this past winter, water-saturated clay soils present disease and root growth problems. Adding two to three inches of expanded shale into the top six inches of clay at planting improves drainage. Two to three inches of compost added at the same time is beneficial. These are also excellent additions for container planting. **\*** 



## Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award Finalists for 2019

by Heidi James, GCV Conservation Awards Committee Chairman The Lynchburg Garden Club

The Conservation Awards Committee announces the finalists for the 2019 Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award. The award was established by the Garden Club of Virginia and the Carter family in 2009. It funds projects within the commonwealth, in the areas of natural resource conservation and environmental protection, which will serve as catalysts for community action. Ballots will be sent to all GCV member clubs and should be returned by April 30. The winner will be announced at the GCV Annual Meeting in May. The finalists are:

#### Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve submitted by Winchester-Clarke Garden Club

Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve is a rare habitat providing safe haven for more than 300 plant species, including two found nowhere else in Virginia. The 25-acre preserve is an educational and recreational resource for the City of Winchester and the Shenandoah Valley. This urban green space, a calcareous muck fen, is distinctive because of its limestone bedrock, low acidity and high nutrient levels. Encroaching shrubs and trees threaten this treasure, as do residential and commercial development. Preserving this open, grassy habitat requires people to do what nature once did. Winchester-Clarke Garden Club is partnering with Winchester and Shenandoah University's Environmental Studies Program to conserve this exceptional wetland. Migrating birds and butterflies, and naturalists of all ages, comingle among the blue Marsh Skullcap. Through additional signage, accessible paths, an audio/internet walking tour and teams of gardeners, an effort is being made to protect the marsh's native plants.

#### Weir Garden at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley submitted by The Little Garden Club of Winchester

The Museum of the Shenandoah Valley is implementing a \$9 million project to preserve 90 of its 214 acres. Part of this acreage will become 3.5 miles of biking, hiking and walking trails known as the Trails at the MSV, and will be Virginia's largest public art park. More than \$8.9 million has been raised and the project is nearing completion. Major contributors include the City of Winchester and the Virginia Department of Transportation. In partnership with the Little Garden Club of Winchester, which has already donated \$20,000, the museum is applying for this award for the creation of the Weir Garden. The garden will include storm water management, a naturally managed wildlife habitat and education for visitors. Large stone weirs and an accessible trail will be created, including a 1.6-acre wildflower meadow of indigenous plants. The project will conserve natural resources, preserve green space within an urban setting and utilize fallow farmland. The MSV welcomes more than 71,000 visitors annually and is free and open to the public. **\*** 

by Virginia Cherry, GCV Library Committee The Petersburg Garden Club

**Performance** author Jane Eastoe and photographer Georgianna Lane (Gibbs Smith, 2018, 240 pp.) is a guide for growing popular peonies. Eastoe begins with the "History of the Peony," which was cultivated in China 2,000 years ago because of the medicinal properties of its roots and seed. The book highlights four types of peonies, including more than 50 varieties.

"Pure" peonies are considered harmonious and pure forms. "Dramatic" peonies create a sense of drama in the construction of the flower. "Romantic" peonies symbolize romance, a happy marriage and good fortune. "Fragrant" peonies present a range of fragrant patterns, with some having a woody smell or the smell of roses, lily of the valley, black tea, hay and citrus, while others have musky or antiseptic scents.



The "Growing and Care" section extensively covers all areas concerning successful growing. A glossary and simple table of common reasons for failure to bloom are included. This helpful book includes more than 150 vivid and realistic photographs by Lane, illustrating the wide variety of peonies from the "frilled, flounced and curled." They are a delight to view.

Horticulture Field Day 2019

*Featuring* The Market at Grelen, a farm market, nursery and garden shop in Somerset, VA. A horticulturist's dream destination for plant materials, containers, gardening gifts and gear. Sign up for the hands-on terrarium workshop and a guided tour of the fantastic 600-acre tree nursery.



Don't miss the very special, private garden at historic Mount Sharon Farm, which is rarely open. Brilliantly sited on the brow of the second highest point in Orange County, the well-planned elements of this garden masterpiece will leave you speechless. More details coming soon!

Save the Dates! May 22-23, 2019

Book your lodging now & register online March 1st at GCVIRGINIA.ORG

GARDEN CLUB Open to Garden Club of Virginia members only.

## Journal Advertising Call for Action

by Lea Shuba, GCV Journal Advertising Chairman The Hunting Creek Garden Club

et advertisers know that you appreciate their business and that you are purchasing from them because you saw their ad in the Garden Club of Virginia *Journal*. Many members keep the *Journal* handy for browsing and referencing articles. Information from advertisers is also a good reference. Ads fulfill a vital function in making our publication self-sufficient. Members patronize the businesses that advertise in the *Journal* and attend member club events that are publicized there. Advertising in the *Journal* increases event attendance. Member clubs receive a 50 percent discount when they promote a club program or fundraiser. Please don't overlook this valuable tool. It will be a gift to you and to the Garden Club of Virginia.

The publication allows advertisers to appeal to an audience with shared interests and values. Beyond club functions, the *Journal* is constantly looking for businesses that provide services or goods that interest readers. Many members who own a business also choose to support the GCV through advertising, and it pays off for them. One advertiser placed a coded discount on a full-page ad. This allows the business to track who responds and to determine future advertising.

It is helpful to count on members for a personal introduction to business owners who may want to advertise. Remind your favorite businesses to advertise with the Garden Club of Virginia. They benefit from presenting themselves to *Journal* readers who travel to field days, symposia and meetings. I have yet to travel with friends who did not stop at every dress store and nursery that we remembered from *Journal* advertising. Email me at journalads@gcvirginia.org to receive an information packet for potential advertisers. \$\$



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## Boxwood Blight in Virginia

by Wendy Walker, GCV Horticulture Committee Chairman The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

s the rain continues to fall relentlessly this year, the boxwood blight problem persists in Virginia, and the Horticulture Committee continues to study and monitor this danger to our beloved shrub. While most have probably heard of this blight, the Horticulture Committee would like your help in educating garden club members, local news



outlets and the community. It is our hope that increased awareness of the issue will ensure proper containment and disposal of diseased plants to minimize future damage in our state.

According to Dan Gregg at Grelen Nursery, current wet conditions are ideal for the spread of the blight. Spores of the fungus (*Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum*) are carried from place to place by strong winds, by animals – both wild and domestic – and by lawn and garden equipment and tools. Plants affected by this fungus are in the *Buxaceae* family, including English and American boxwood. The disease is marked by leaf damage with a light center and dark border, which eventually causes leaf loss and ultimately death. Branches develop long, blackish-brown streaks. The Virginia Boxwood Blight Task Force at Virginia Tech provides leadership in safeguarding and protecting the ornamental horticulture industry, historical gardens and landscape plantings from boxwood blight.

If you suspect a problem, immediately limit access to the suspected area and call your local Virginia Cooperative Extension (https://ext.vt.edu/offices.html). Researchers suggest that fungicides may be effective in preventing the fungus from spreading. A list of recommended fungicides is available from your local extension office. Special care must be taken in



removing damaged plants in order not to spread the disease and cause further problems. Double-bagging of all infected materials and sanitation of tools is essential, and only reputable and educated landscape professionals should be hired to remove infected plants. Professional consultation is advised.

The Virginia Cooperative Extension has a more extensive list of links and resources. Thank you for your efforts to increase awareness of this issue. \$

## 2019 Grants to Virginia State Parks

by Nina Mustard, GCV Virginia State Parks Committee Chairman The Williamsburg Garden Club

 The Garden Club of Virginia board of directors endorsed the recommendation from the Virginia State Parks committee to provide funds for the following
 projects and programs in Virginia State Parks:

- Bear Creek Pollinator meadow and landscaping
- Belle Isle Phase 3 Belle Isle Manor and Bel Air House landscaping The Garden Club of the Northern Neck
- Chippokes Plantation Visitor Center exhibit updates
- Claytor Lake Native landscaping
- Douthat Dark Sky Park initiatives
- Natural Bridge Visitor Center Base Camp exhibits *The Blue Ridge Garden Club*
- Pocahontas CCC cabin work week supplies
- Shenandoah River Visitor Center landscaping The Garden Club of Warren County
- Sky Meadows Phase 3 trail system experience Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club
- Staunton River Battlefield Mulberry trees and vegetable garden
- York River Landscaping and turtle habitat The Hampton Roads Garden Club, The Huntington Garden Club and The Williamsburg Garden Club

In addition to these projects, the Youth Conservation Corps will receive funding to aid in the purchase of supplies for the residential summer program.

Five of the parks to receive funds in 2019 are first-time applicants. The Garden Club of Virginia's \$500,000 centennial project to fund projects in Virginia State Parks is making a lasting and visible difference around the commonwealth and advancing the mission of the Garden Club of Virginia.



*Lily Notes* Show Off

Carrie Darracott, GCV Lily Committee Chairman The Augusta Garden Club

he 77th annual Garden Club of Virginia Lily Show will be held at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 12291 River Road in Richmond on Tuesday, June 18, 2019. Information, including the show schedule, is available at gcvlilies.org. This show should be interesting to both experienced exhibitors and those who are simply curious about lilies. Information about lily culture and exhibition will be offered, in addition to the full schedule of classes.

If you missed the show in its lovely venue last June and have lilies in your garden that you would like to enter, here are some tips for producing show-worthy blooms. In early spring pull aside mulch cover when the new shoots begin to emerge and fertilize them with 5-10-10 or 10-10-10. Keep the mulch at the side of the bed and use it to re-cover the tender shoots when frost threatens. Fertilize again lightly just before and after bloom. Keep fertilizer from directly contacting the bulbs and thoroughly water the fertilizer into the soil. Remove weeds from the bed. Water when the soil dries out too much, remembering that lilies like good drainage and most will not succeed in wet soil. Mulch again when the weather turns hot and dry, keeping mulch from touching the stems.

Before the blooms begin, take a moment to research the identity of your bulbs. If you are lucky, you will have marked each planting with a label and the labels will still be in place. If you are like most of us and have lost labels to rakes or retrieving dogs, you will find help identifying the bulbs by looking at the GCV website and printing copies of collections you have purchased. You can then print pictures of lilies you have ordered from the suppliers' websites. As the bulbs bloom, you can identify look-alikes among your photos and then mark them. Of course, you will also find knowledgeable help from the classification experts at the show to verify or obtain identification.

With good spring care and a little luck from the weather, you will enjoy stunning blooms in your garden and will be tempted to bring some beauties to the GCV show. Take the plunge and show off. See you there in June.



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Provides essential ongoing support necessary to maintain GCV operations.

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## **Green Arrow Society**

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If you have made a planned gift, or would like more information about joining the Green Arrow Society, please contact Lexie Haglund at (804) 643-4137 or development@ gcvirginia.org.

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## Errata

On Page 15 of the December 2018 *Journal*, the photo caption should have read, "GCV Flower Show judges Annie Vanderwarker, Dolley Madison Garden Club, and Laura Francis, The Hunting Creek Garden Club, led a novice flower arranging workshop."

