Year in Review 2019-2020
DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

Our world changed in March of 2020, and the Garden Club of Virginia rose to the challenges she faced. Time honored traditions continued, yet in a new way. Daffodil Day became our first virtual flower show; Historic Garden Week mounted an online presence of homes, gardens and arrangements; the GCV Annual Meeting became an archived webpage which presents a history of our accomplishments during the past two years. I encourage you to revisit gcvirginia.org/2020 to share in all of the fun we have had together.

This publication salutes each of you, the members and friends of the Garden Club of Virginia. It is your support that allows us to continue to reach goals that are at the core of our mission: to celebrate the beauty of Virginia, to conserve our natural resources, to restore historic landscapes, to provide environmental education, and to educate the next generation so that they might carry on this important work.

Thank you for your gifts of time, talent and resources. We could not do what we do, or be who we are, without you. Your encouragement, your patience, your creativity, your generosity, and your collaborative spirit combine to form a strong foundation for the Garden Club of Virginia. It has been my greatest pleasure to lead such an inspiring group.

With gratitude,

Jean E.R. Gilpin, President 2018-2020

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

Fiscal year 2019-2020 is certainly one for the record books. While the first half of the year started and progressed in what is now the old normal, the second half quickly changed in very strange ways. By the first of March, we were aware of this “new” virus and were developing messaging for Historic Garden Week and by mid-March we had canceled it. GCV staff began working from home and everyone began a relationship with ZOOM. Their contributions to the virtual Annual Meeting, HGW communications, Journal online, virtual Boot Camp and daily GCV life were greatly appreciated.

Our staff responded with their usual determination and grace to this new way of doing GCV business. The Kent-Valentine House was closed to meetings and visitors until July except for staff who were all back in their offices. We adjusted to the need for social distancing easily since we are spread out naturally in the second-floor offices. We set up sanitizing stations and handwashing signs. This process grew into the KVH protocols for reopening the house for small meetings or visitors.

Through the winter, we hired a new Finance Manager. Stacey Davis came on board bringing solid accounting and financial management skills. It was wonderful having Kathy Knollmann here for a few months supporting GCV accounting and orienting Stacey. Lexie Haglund, Development Director, departed and we wished her well in her new endeavors.

Even with our “new normal,” the resilience and resolve of the staff working along with GCV leadership, clubs and GCV members never wavered.

Lynn McCashin, Executive Director

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

Photo by Edie Hessburg, Winchester-Clarke Garden Club; Cover photo by Jay Paul

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.
Treasurer’s Report

The Covid-19 pandemic falling in the last quarter of our 2019-2020 fiscal year greatly impacted GCV’s income expectations while our expenses remained relatively unchanged. As you know, the Garden Club of Virginia’s largest source of revenue is our annual Historic Garden Week. The losses from Historic Garden Week 2020 had significant repercussions on our organization’s finances, not only for this year but for several years to come. To compensate for a 55% loss of revenue, your Board of Directors made several decisions to allow us to meet the financial challenges before us. We reduced or delayed expenses wherever possible, applied for and received a PPP loan, made additional withdrawals from our Endowment investment account, passed an interim yearly budget which will be reviewed for possible changes in October, and obtained a one-year line of credit.

The Garden Club of Virginia operates on a fiscal year that began July 1, 2019 and ended on June 30, 2020. The budget for the fiscal year was presented by the Treasurer to the Board of Directors for a vote of approval and then to the membership at the May 2019 GCV Annual Meeting. While we were able to keep our expenses 1.3% below planned for the year, our income also came in 29% below our goal. In addition to HGW income, the other sources of income for GCV were membership dues, the annual fund, sponsorships and donations, income from publications and rental of our carriage house. Additionally, we withdrew 4.5% from our Endowment fund as planned in our 2019-2020 budget.

The expenses for the GCV include maintaining our headquarters, management/staff salaries, insurance, funding of our restoration/centennial projects, development expenses and the cost of our yearly audit. To communicate with our membership, we maintain our website and publish the Journal quarterly. Also funded were the Common Wealth Award, the Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award, a Conservation Fellowship and two Restoration Fellowships. This year’s expenses include the final payment of our Centennial gift to the parks and any losses incurred as a result of cancelled GCV events.

Our assets of approximately $7.9 million include the Kent-Valentine House property, our cash accounts, and investment portfolios. At the end of June 2020, the GCV investment portfolios were valued at over $5.9 million, which is approximately 75% of GCV’s total assets. Our financial records for 2018-2019 fiscal year were audited, and we received a clean opinion. As a 501(c)(3) organization, our Federal Form 990 was filed this year and is available for public review.

In navigating the immediate needs of GCV in this economic downturn, GCV has been primarily dependent upon withdrawals from our Endowment fund built up by the forethought of our predecessors and the generosity of our membership. The 2019-2020 GCV Board strongly recommended that rebuilding our Endowment fund should be a priority in the future.

The Garden Club of Virginia has been fortunate to be able to weather the setbacks of this year, and we look forward to continuing the work of our mission throughout the commonwealth for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Alexander, Treasurer 2018-2020
GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

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Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club sponsors the State Arboretum’s Public Garden Intern at Blandy.

The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore refuses to use plastic bags. On the steps of Ker Place, members show off their newly created bags made from recycled materials supporting this GCV initiative.

President Jean Gilpin (center) visits four clubs in the Norfolk area in her tour around the commonwealth.

The Nansemond River Garden Club supports the native plants garden at King’s Fork High School. Club President and GCV Parliamentarian Linda Consoivo presents the school with their gift.

GCV welcomes our 48th member club, Three Rivers Garden Club.
ABOVE: The East Garden at Stratford Hall, site of our 1930 restoration, has undergone a transformation. In the current restoration, the upper terrace takes on a look that is more consistent with a 19th-century design and is based on a plan found in Thomas Jefferson’s papers. Photo courtesy of Rieley and Associates.

RIGHT: At Bartlett Tree Workdays, Bartlett Tree Experts partnered with the Garden Club of Virginia within our communities to expand our knowledge of tree and shrub care, and to enhance the beauty of our neighborhoods.

The recipient of the 2019 Common Wealth Award was the Boxwood Garden Club’s enhancement of the Peter Paul Development Center Playground and Garden in Richmond.

The 2020 Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award was awarded to the Little Garden Club of Winchester for their project at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley. The Weir Garden will showcase stone weirs—low, dam-like structures—that regulate water flow during periods of extreme precipitation.

What we do

Landscape Restoration • Support for Member Club Community Projects
what we do

Virginia State Parks Grants • Conservation and Beautification • Growing and Showing • Historic Garden Week

Students compare water samples in Smith Mountain Lake’s Wet Lab and use microscopes to identify microorganisms. Photo Courtesy of Virginia State Parks.

Historic Garden Week 2020 was cancelled for the first time since WWII due to the global pandemic. During that week, the Garden Club of Virginia reminded the public on social media of past tours, including photos of historic properties, flower arrangements, and extraordinary gardens. The 2020 Guidebook became the first to be registered with the Library of Congress. The anticipation for Historic Garden Week 2021 is building. Photo by Sandy Geiger, The Garden Club of Gloucester.

This all-female Youth Conservation Corps crew at Westmoreland State Park cleared trails and worked diligently to keep invasive species at bay. Photo Courtesy of Virginia State Parks.

This all-female Youth Conservation Corps crew at Westmoreland State Park cleared trails and worked diligently to keep invasive species at bay. Photo Courtesy of Virginia State Parks.

Below: By producing a virtual show, Daffodil Day became an opportunity to expand our vision of flower shows. The website, gcvirginia.org/daffodilday, remains available as a great source for artistic design, photography, historic daffodils Test Collection (1930) and Daffodils A-Z. Photo by Jane Hammond.

Former GCV President Deedy Bumgardner and Grace Rice (The Augusta Garden Club) as “trees” at the 2019 GCV Conservation Forum.

Environmental Studies Fellow Heather Kenny (at right) and her research assistants studied the effects of noise pollution on Eastern Bluebirds’ nesting habits.

Above: 94th District Delegate Shelly Simonds, Allison Clock (The Hampton Roads Garden Club), Patricia Loughridge, Linda Marks and Elizabeth Kostelny of Preservation Virginia.

Above: At Photography Workshops members polished their photography skills and learned useful tips on sending digital images and preparing photographs for exhibiting.

Right: Environmental Studies Fellow Heather Kenny (at right) and her research assistants studied the effects of noise pollution on Eastern Bluebirds’ nesting habits.
The Garden Club of Virginia is Honored to Acknowledge our Generous Donors.

THE HONOR ROLL OF DONORS | JULY 1, 2019-JUNE 30, 2020

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$10,000 AND ABOVE

Bartlett Tree Experts
Hilldrup
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**ALPINE GARDEN**

$5,000 TO $9,999

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The Elizabeth River Garden Club
The James River Garden Club
The Princess Anne Garden Club*
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Photo by Clair Mellinger; Albemarle Garden Club; Right photo by Matt Peterschmidt
**PRESIDENT’S PARTERRE**

$1,000 TO $4,999

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The Huntington Garden Club
The Spotswood Garden Club*
The Warrenton Garden Club*

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Margaret Valentine
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Janice Scott Whitehead
Catherine Whitham*
Betsy Worthington*
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$100 TO $249

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The Ashland Garden Club*
The Augusta Garden Club
The Brunswick Garden Club
The Charlottesville Garden Club*
Chatham Garden Club*
Dolley Madison Garden Club
The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore
The Garden Study Club*
The Hampton Roads Garden Club*
Three Chopt Garden Club
The Virginia Beach Garden Club*

The Hunting Creek Garden Club
Junior Virginia Beach Garden Club
Leesburg Garden Club*
The Little Garden Club of Winchester
The Martinsville Garden Club
Mill Mountain Garden Club
The Nansemond River Garden Club
The Garden Club of the Northern Neck
The Petersburg Garden Club

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Erma Baker
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$1 TO $99

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