SOUTHERN CHARMS MEETS WORLDLY SOPHISTICATION

Shop these exclusive creations, and support the GCV Centennial.

Silk Twill Scarf
Local botanicals create a lush border complete with pollinators. The colors are soft, subtle and intended for year-round wear. Hand-rolled and hemmed silk twill. Measures 17" x 70" | $100

TERVIS TUMBLER
This 16-oz. Tervis Tumbler sports a bright green Centennial logo patch. Stock up for all your entertaining needs. | $20 or $25 including travel lid! Not available online.

WATERFORD CRYSTAL
KEEPSAKE ORNAMENT
This limited edition Waterford Crystal keepsake is the perfect way to celebrate and commemorate the GCV Centennial. It also makes a lovely gift. Measures 3.2" x 4" | $50

SILK TIES
Creating a subtle overall pattern of the signature GCV leaf logo, these handsome ties are 100% imported silk and hand-sewn in the USA. In grass green and blue. | $85

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA
Centennial
1920-2020
Available at shop.gcvirginia.org
$5 Flat Rate Shipping
Also available at the Kent-Valentine House and select GCV events.

The Other Elizabeth
17 East Main Street, Boyce, Va
540-837-3088 or www.elizabethlockejewels.com
THE MISSION OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA
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.

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 3,600 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.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE & DEADLINES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Publication Date</th>
<th>Submission Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>November 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>February 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>May 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>August 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ADVERTISING
Advertising inquiries are welcome. Discounts are available to clubs and club members; frequency discounts are also available.

For a rate sheet or more information, visit the GCV website at gcvirginia.org or contact Journal Ad Sales Manager at journalads@gcvirginia.org.

The Garden Club of Virginia is a 501 (c) (3) organization. 12 East Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219. The Journal is printed by Carter Printing Company (ISSN 0431-0233) and is published four times a year for members by the GCV. Graphic Design by Whitney Tigani Design.


The Garden Club of Virginia supports recycling. Please recycle this publication.
ON THE COVER: ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

TENLEY BEAZLEY

In honor of the Garden Club of Virginia’s Centennial, Tenley Beazley turns her deft eye to our state tree, the native dogwood Cornus florida, dressed in seasonal colors against a brilliant October sky. This autumn story told in mixed media includes a visitor, our state butterfly, the native eastern tiger swallowtail. Here, Tenley draws our attention to details often overlooked, such as this rare dark form of the female Papilio glaucus Linnaeus.

An ardent conservationist, gardener and artist devoted to revealing the “details of nature that are so often missed,” Tenley invites the viewer to take a closer look and move beyond the surface of her multilayered works. Many have accepted that invitation, through private collections, commissions and shows in Atlanta, Baltimore, Charlottesville, and Richmond, including a solo show at Quirk Gallery in Richmond with proceeds benefiting the GCV Conservation Fund.

Tenley studied art history and studio art at Denison University and at Richmond College (London, England), and earned a master’s degree in broadcast journalism from Northwest University. Tenley studied art history and studio art at Denison University and at Richmond College (London, England), and earned a master’s degree in broadcast journalism from Northwest University. Years later, back in Virginia, she took a class in botanical painting at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden “on a whim.” Her love of art and nature came together, and she continues to challenge herself and viewers to engage with the natural world.

A Richmond native and wife of Wyatt Beazley IV, she’s a mother of three, an active volunteer in the community and a member of The James River Garden Club, where she co-chairs the conservation committee.

—Jeanette McKittrick, Three Chopt Garden Club, Cover Editor, GCV Journal

Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of Virginia

Paul L. Boggs, Jr., Corbin D. Hilling, Val Keith, Michael J. Prindler, Dawn A. Wheaton, Donald J. Orth

www.jhubooks.press.jhu.edu
800-537-5487

THE CHALLENGE TO MOVE FORWARD

The Garden Club of Virginia Centennial has provided our membership, friends and the greater public the opportunity to recall the history of our organization’s founding, purpose, goals, mission, accomplishments and contributions over the past 100 years. It has been a time of reflection, recollection, appreciation and pride. It has, importantly, also been a time of great camaraderie. Members are reminded of the impact of their work for the betterment of their communities and the commonwealth from efforts in conservation, beautification, restoration and more. Although our May 2020 Founders Day plans were canceled by the Covid pandemic, we can look forward to a Centennial Series of events that will allow us to continue with our celebration.

While commemorating the past, the challenge we face is real: How will the Garden Club of Virginia move forward into the future? Resting on our laurels is not an option. We are only as strong as our collective selves. It will be the perseverance and optimism, creativity and flexibility of our members and leaders that will determine our future success. We must channel our energies to seek out ways to continue to make our work both meaningful and lasting. This will require insight, focus and meaningful and lasting. This will require insight, focus and solutions to take the Garden Club of Virginia to the next level of volunteerism. There must be a renewed effort to look, listen and learn from others to be able to keep up with these changing and challenging times.

Appreciating the strength and stronghold of a 100-year-old organization that has stood the test of time leaves no doubt that the leaders of tomorrow will face every challenge, overcome every obstacle and have the vision to move the Garden Club of Virginia into a successful second century.

With much love,

Missy Buckingham
GCV President, 2020-22
A NEW DAY

It’s a new day for the Garden Club of Virginia Journal. It’s been redesigned and reimagined, inside and out, and we hope you like what you see. Befittingly, our inaugural issue is Centennial-centric, bringing you in words and pictures the GCV’s 100th anniversary. From “Essentials” up front to committee and club articles in our new “Snips” section, our content will enable you to remain connected to all things GCV. Our features section is mission-focused: In this issue, we showcase the extraordinary Centennial exhibition at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, open to the public through November 1. And for floral design devotees, read “Flower Power.” Paula Pryke’s in-person Founders Day presentation may have been postponed, but that didn’t deter us from sharing her signature style with her ever enthusiastic GCV fan base.

This year has been like no other. It’s meant unprecedented challenges and, for many of us, navigating situations we couldn’t have dreamed of a year ago. But we in the GCV are also fiercely resilient. We have held to our core tenets and soldiered on. For 100 years, our priorities—in spite of wars and pandemics—have remained the same. We advocate for what matters to us. We celebrate the beauty of our land, we conserve the gifts of nature, and we challenge future generations to build on that heritage.

While the GCV remains steadfast in its mission, it is embarking on its second century precisely because it has adapted. The Journal, with its rich and revered history, will continue to remain one of the organization’s most important communication vehicles, but it too must strive for relevance in a constantly changing world. So in this year of exceptional challenges and change, we bring you a fresh take on an old standard. My editorial committee is top-notch, and GCV leadership is responsive and resourceful. I am enormously honored and humbled with this opportunity—to lead my hardworking team and to usher in the Journal’s new chapter.

Madeline Mayhood
GCV Journal Editor
journal@gcvirginia.org
Historic Garden Week might be turning 88 this spring, but she’s not afraid to try new things. If Oprah and Martha Stewart can do it, so can she. Historic Garden Week—The Magazine makes its debut in mid-November, taking the place of the state brochure, and sending a message to its fans. It’s going to be different, but this popular springtime event is on a path forward. With a distribution of 25,000 free copies to outlets throughout Virginia, all of which are traditional distribution sites for the beloved Guidebook, The Magazine has three objectives: to extend the Guidebook’s public outreach beyond its Centennial, to provide additional return-on-investment to 2020 and 2021 spring Guidebook advertisers and sponsors and, of course, to pay for itself.

Despite the very successful radio and social media campaign, thanking our supporters during the eight days in April when tours would have taken place, we understand that it simply wasn’t the same. We know that most advertisers in the Guidebook are extremely loyal, participating every year. Those supporters will receive visibility in two publications this year—The Magazine and the spring Guidebook—for the same price as one ad.

The HGW office has been especially busy working to design The Magazine to complement the Guidebook, which will continue to be a main source of logistical tour information and tantalizing tidbits about the private properties which are the mainstay of this statewide event.

Organized by geographic region, as opposed to alphabetically by tours, each region’s section of The Magazine will feature a travel story. These expanded versions of suggested itineraries will utilize the information provided by each tour team, as well as feature stories highlighting and relating to the interesting work of the GCV. Historic Garden Week—The Magazine aims to tell a bigger story and share it with a larger audience. —Karen Ellsworth, State Director, Historic Garden Week and Editor of the Guidebook

The Path Forward: Historic Garden Week Planned for April 17-24, 2021

Being proactive about the upcoming tours, the Historic Garden Week State Committee and its leadership continue to consider applicable best practices, input and advice from both national and state organizations regarding the planning and production of large-scale gatherings that could apply to the upcoming tours.

They are already implementing a systematic plan for all 30 tours in order to: ensure the physical safety of GCV members, volunteers and tour attendees; follow local, state and federal guidelines and be fiscally conservative, safeguarding the long-term financial health of the Garden Club of Virginia. The leadership of the GCV understands the popularity of Historic Garden Week with its members and its fans and is well aware that changes will be necessary to ensure a positive experience for everyone.

Two important dates shared with tour teams at Virtual Boot Camp at the end of June are helping guide decision making. The first involves tour LOGISTICS that directly impact what is shared in the spring Guidebook. For example, will tours offer refreshments? Once those recommendations are discussed and voted on, they will be communicated no later than December 15.

The second date involves 2021 touring PROTOCOL. For example, will guests and hostesses be required to wear masks? The HGW Committee will share applicable information with the 2021 tour teams, property owners, ticket buyers and other important stakeholders by February 24. The Spring HGW Region meetings taking place the week of March 8 will be an especially important time to address this aspect of tours and distribute materials in support of HGW 2021.
GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA AT 100

A CENTENNIAL TO REMEMBER

This year—GCV’s Centennial—is a remarkable one. Committees and clubs planned a Centennial-themed year of statewide programs and events, all of which were to culminate in the much-anticipated Founders Day originally scheduled for May 2020. Although plans were years in the making, the pandemic thwarted our long-awaited celebrations. However, thanks to visionary leadership, showcasing our Centennial has been reimagined, and a series of events are planned for the future. What better way to highlight this important milestone than through the Centennial edition of the newly redesigned Journal.

We bring you coverage of the incredible GCV exhibition at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, A Landscape Saved: The Garden Club of Virginia at 100, which is open to the public until November 1. This extraordinary effort highlights the GCV’s history and the tremendous scope of our many accomplishments. Profiles of some of the visionary behind-the-scenes key figures and a first-person exhibition diary will inspire club members to make their way to Richmond to witness this once-in-a-lifetime, comprehensive retrospective. Rest assured all social distancing protocols are being observed. As a tribute to our forebears, read about Juanita Patterson, the president of the James River Garden Club, who is credited with founding the Garden Club of Virginia a century ago. It is accompanied by a look at “The Founders”—the GCV’s eight original clubs. And although the 2020 Founders Day demonstration has been postponed, Paula Pryke, legendary British floral designer, makes a big splash in “Flower Power.”

So enjoy the pages that follow. Celebrate the GCV’s Centennial and the “new” Journal. We hope you will feel increasingly proud to be a part of the Garden Club of Virginia.

—Missy Buckingham, GCV President
THE EXHIBITION

Illustrating the history of an organization that has spanned a century is no easy feat, especially when that organization is a voice for conservation and the environment, supports projects ranging from the eastern shores to the western mountains, restores landscapes at renowned historic properties and produces an annual event with a multimillion dollar impact across the state. As always, members of the Garden Club of Virginia rose to the task to commemorate the organization’s centennial. Under the leadership of Jeanette Cadwallender (GCV president, 2014-2016), the idea of the exhibition and catalog was conceived and realized. With the direction of Joanna Catron of the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club, the subcommittee worked closely with the Virginia Museum of History & Culture’s Senior Curator of Museum Collections Dr. William S. Rasmussen to create an extraordinary exhibition that captures the spirit and achievements of the GCV and its member clubs. The exhibition and catalog celebrate the legacy of those visionary women who, in 1920, turned their energy and resources to the beautification, preservation and conservation of the landscape and communities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Lavish photographs, colorful graphics, press clippings and historic documents tell the story of how the GCV grew from its founding by eight clubs to today’s organization of 48 clubs and 3500 members. The organization’s significant impact on the state is evident throughout the exhibition and catalog. Both illustrate the GCV’s strong advocacy for conservation and the environment—from its early and ongoing support of Virginia state parks, to its restoration and preservation of landscapes at more than 50 historic properties from Historic Garden Week proceeds. The exhibition also features horticulture and flower shows, its early efforts to rid state roads of billboard blight, GCV’s international outreach during and after World War II, its noted award and fellowship recipients and club projects throughout the commonwealth. As in 1920, “It began with an invitation…” and you are invited to tour this well-curated exhibition and explore the beautiful companion catalog to share in the joy and reflect on the accomplishments of the GCV over the past century. But the invitation does not stop there. The exhibition and catalog invite members of the GCV to continue this legacy of education, beautification, preservation and conservation in their own communities throughout the commonwealth. Or as Jeanette Cadwallender proclaims, “Celebrate the landscape of Virginia and the organization that has preserved it.”

—Deneen Brannock, Augusta Garden Club

SEE THE EXHIBITION

A Landscape Saved: The Garden Club of Virginia at 100 Centennial Exhibition is on display at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture (VMHC) in Richmond through November 1. Advanced tickets required. For more information on museum hours, purchasing tickets and exhibition details, visit the VMHC website at virginiahistory.org.

THE CATALOG

This beautiful book is more than a catalog of the exhibition presented by the Garden Club of Virginia and the Virginia Museum of History & Culture. Lavishly illustrated by photographs, A Landscape Saved: The Garden Club of Virginia at 100 tells the story of the Garden Club of Virginia from its founding to the present. Most importantly, it is an inspiration for the future. In 1920, resourceful women turned their energy and attention to the beautification, preservation and conservation of the Commonwealth of Virginia and founded the Garden Club of Virginia. This was the same year in which women obtained the right to vote. World War I had just ended and the flu pandemic had subsided. The GCV’s rich history is detailed—from its creation a century ago by eight clubs to its 48 member clubs today. The book describes the GCV as a strong voice for conservation and the environment and its commitment to historic landscape restoration. It helped fund Virginia State Parks and as a Centennial project has given $500,000 to state parks. Member club projects are showcased in communities throughout the state, all of which reflect the mission of the GCV. The book highlights the many facets of the organization. It features Historic Garden Week and its profound impact on the state’s economy since its inception. Years of GCV work in conservation, horticulture, education and flower arranging are also featured. The GCV’s responsiveness to crisis in World War II is remembered. Each generation will continue to face different challenges, but rest assured the GCV will be up to the task. Jamie Busket, President and CEO of the VMHC, describes the GCV “as a group that has bettered life in Virginia for its residents and all who journey to and through this exceptionally historic place.” Jean Gilpin, GCV President (2018-2020) says “GCV is strong, relevant and determined to impart our knowledge and passion to the next generation.” This book and the exhibition at VMHC will help do that. Visit the exhibition, read this book; share it with your friends and community leaders so that they will see and share our commitment to Virginia.

—Anne Geddy Cross, The Ashland Garden Club

DON’T MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A COPY OF THE EXHIBITION CATALOG

Books are $20 each plus shipping. Order at https://shop.gcvirginia.org. Discounts are available for 10 or more copies. Contact quanm@gcvirginia.org or call (804) 643-4137 for details.

CATCHING UP WITH JEANETTE CADWALLENDER

Jeanette Cadwallender served as the 48th president of the Garden Club of Virginia (2014-2016) and is a member of the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club. Over the past five years, she led the team that wrote, designed and published the catalog that showcases the exhibition, A Landscape Saved: The Garden Club of Virginia at 100. “The catalog is a great piece that serves as a stand-alone document,” says Jeanette. “It is not a typical catalog. It’s beautifully designed and the color palette was also used throughout the exhibition.” Jeanette says the catalog’s real strength is that it highlights the work the public sees—the projects of the GCV and of the individual clubs. The catalog, like the exhibition, was a remarkable collaboration of GCV members and the curatorial staff at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture. “That combination allowed everyone to see the valuable work of the GCV.”

—Katherine Knopf, Roanoke Valley Garden Club
CURATING THE EXHIBITION: JOANNA CATRON

For over five years Joanna Catron worked closely with a team of GCV members and the curatorial staff at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture to produce our Centennial exhibition, A Landscape Saved: The Garden Club of Virginia at 100. She was a natural choice to represent the GCV in this effort. Joanna is not only a member of the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club, but she is also the assistant director and curator at Belmont, the country home and studio near Fredericksburg of prominent American impressionist artist Gari Melchers (1860-1932). Joanna recently spoke with Journal committee member Katherine Knopf (Roanoke Valley Garden Club) about her experience helping bring the Centennial exhibition to life.

Journal: What criteria did you use to curate the memorabilia?
JC: Before we met with William Rasmussen, Senior Curator at VMHC, I had to decide how to help him understand the Garden Club of Virginia and our mission. In reflecting on the GCV’s lasting work and significant impact throughout the state, we decided that consistent and ongoing themes should be forefront in laying out the exhibition. The themes we targeted came easily and echo the same core values that the GCV prioritized at its inception: conservation, beautification, restoration and horticulture.

Journal: What was your favorite part of curating the exhibition?
JC: The team that worked on this project! They were all incredible to work with. It was the collaboration of committed GCV members that made this project successful. From artifacts and documents provided from archives and club members, the staff at VMHC seamlessly organized a beautiful exhibition.

Journal: What particular item stood out as remarkable?
JC: As a newer member of the Garden Club of Virginia, I knew what our local club had accomplished, but I didn’t know much about the statewide contributions of the GCV. As I started researching, I quickly realized that we need to impart what the organization has done to conserve, restore and preserve landmarks and gardens around the state.

Journal: How do you tell a story of 100 years of work through artifacts?
JC: Archives at the GCV headquarters, the Kent-Valentine House, were invaluable. The staff assisted by providing creative ideas. The books and journals stored there reveal stories of strong-minded women who used their influence to impart change. From billboard legislation to saving Goshen Pass, the GCV’s efforts preserved significant landscapes. We are not a self-serving organization. We preserve iconic gardens at the University of Virginia and Monticello, as well as smaller ones such as the historic Anne Spencer Garden in Lynchburg that was a salon for Harlem Renaissance poets. Through the items chosen, we demonstrate how local garden clubs improve their communities and tell the bigger story of how they and the GCV contribute tirelessly to the people of Virginia through these permanent efforts.

THE EXHIBITION TEAM
William Rasmussen, VMHC Senior Curator of Museum Collections
Bryan Condra, VMHC Exhibition Designer
Andrew Talkov, VMHC Senior Curator of Curatorial Affairs
Veronica Blanco, VMHC Exhibition Technician
Anne Cross, The Ashland Garden Club
Buffy Bickford, The Ashland Garden Club
Jeanette Cadwallender, The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club
Janet Rosser, The Ashland Garden Club
Lynn McCashin, GCV Executive Director
Karen Ellsworth, State Director, Historic Garden Week & Editor of the Guidebook
Ann Heller, GCV Communications Coordinator

A Centennial Exhibition Diary

On a mellowly hot July day, I decided to visit the Virginia Museum of History & Culture to see the GCV Centennial exhibition, A Landscape Saved: The Garden Club of Virginia at 100. It turned out to be an excellent decision, in spite of the pandemic, for there were few people in the museum that day and no worries about being too close to one another.

As a member of the GCV for over 35 years, I thought I knew the GCV story fairly well. But as I wandered through the exhibition and read about the accomplishments over the decades, I found myself in awe of what earlier generations achieved—often through sheer determination.

The Centennial exhibition provides an opportunity to explore the impact of the GCV in the fields of restoration, conservation, horticulture and education. The story is rendered beautifully in words and pictures. Tackling “billboard blight” nightly remains a signature GCV accomplishment and was brought to life poignantly with old photos of junky road sides juxtaposed with an image of a billboard-free stretch of highway. Thank of taking trips in the 1950s and 60s along two-lane highways, then crowded with gas station signs and billboards every half-mile touting everything from Brylcreem to Bon Ami. Imagine our highways had the GCV not supported billboard regulation. Thanks to these fierce advocates, Virginia is known as one of the country’s most scenic states.

The exhibition featured another story that resonated: the successful effort to prevent two massive dams from being built—one on the Maury River near Goshen Pass and the other on the Rappahannock River above Fredericksburg. The stories of the GCV members organizing to prevent these dams from being built not only had the desired outcome, but also educated the public about the importance of preserving natural habitats along Virginia waterways.

I was so impressed with the exhibition that I recommend it to all members, and especially to our newest members. Seasoned members will be proud of their beloved GCV, and new members will know about the vital work the GCV has played in preserving and protecting our commonwealth for future generations.

—Catherine Whitham, Three Chopt Garden Club

This lovely 19th-century French Provincial pine sideboard, a gift to the GCV from the late Teen Martin (The Garden Club of Gloucester and GCV president, 1962-1964) can be found on the third floor of the Kent-Valentine House. Its new role will be as the official keeper of special club messages and mementos for the next 50 years. Inside a cache of items collected from all 48 member clubs and standing committees, comprising the GCV Centennial Time Capsule, it will be revealed in 2070. For former GCV Historian Bettie Guthrie (Petersburg Garden Club), who chaired the Time Capsule Subcommittee, the time capsule “represents the voices of member clubs and their message to help future members carry on the GCV legacy.” Read more about the items inside—from CDs to oyster shells, DVDs and pewter pitchers—along with details on how this unique project unfolded in the winter issue of the Journal. Additionally, an official time capsule dedication is planned. Watch the GCV website for more information.

—Deneen Brannock, The Augusta Garden Club

The team that worked on this project! They were all
THE FOUNDERS

Eight garden clubs gathered in 1920 to establish the Garden Club of Virginia, the oldest of which was The Warrenton Garden Club. When it was established in 1911, many a lady arrived at the meetings in a horse and buggy; today an SUV is more likely to be the mode of transportation. Four more clubs appeared before World War I: Albemarle Garden Club in Charlottesville, The Garden Club of Norfolk, The James River Garden Club in Richmond and Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club. In addition to sharing their love of and knowledge about flowers, they all recognized the importance of community service, whether it be roadside beautification or the restoration of historic gardens. The persuasive powers of these women were recognized early when, in 1918, The Garden Club of Norfolk lobbied the Virginia General Assembly to adopt the dogwood as the state flower. From there, the work continues.

During WWI, all of these nascent clubs focused on ways to support the war effort, generally by growing vegetables and encouraging other clubs to do the same. Warrenton held a vegetable show and sold a little booklet for 25 cents in which “deary wartime recipes abounded.” Albemarle supported a nurse during the influenza epidemic, aided a French orphan and helped prepare air-damaged gardens in France. James River promoted backyard gardens as well as a community war garden for children; the club also assisted in the restoration of French gardens destroyed by the war. Fauquier and Loudoun contributed toward the salaries of Home Demonstration Agents*, printed a cookbook and participated in the Land Army. Three more clubs — The Garden Club of Danville, Dolley Madison Garden Club in Orange and The Augusta Garden Club in Staunton — sprouted in the Virginia countryside immediately after the war. When Mrs. Thomas Wheelwright, president of The James River Garden Club, issued an invitation to a conference in Richmond in May of 1920, these eight clubs responded, and the Garden Club of Virginia was born.

A sustained interest in beautification, conservation and education — be it of one’s own garden or the “garden” that is our state — runs like a leitmotif in the history of the Garden Club of Virginia, beginning with these early clubs. Over the next century, 40 more clubs have joined, and GCV sails into its second century full of bloom and vigor.

—Aileen Laing, The Warrenton Garden Club

THE VISIONARY FOUNDER OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

One hundred years ago, a visionary woman with a noble dream launched an organization that today has raised millions of dollars to maintain the beauty of Virginia and continues to mobilize thousands of women across the state to propel that dream. That person is Juanita Patterson, the founder (with Laura Wheelwright) and first president of the Garden Club of Virginia. Mrs. Patterson’s influence and legacy throughout the state is incalculable. Her ideas, tireless enthusiasm and unlimited dedication have transformed perceptions about Virginia’s natural beauty and that which is held dear.

Many of the issues that Mrs. Patterson championed 100 years ago are remarkably similar to the issues of today. In 1922, she created the first GCV committee, the Conservation Committee, and she chaired it from 1922-1930. Their first task was to educate the public about preserving the state’s native wildflowers, trees and shrubs. Today, it is recognized that our native plants are essential to the survival of our ecosystem, and the GCV continues to vigorously promote their use.

With the rapid growth of the highway system in the 1920s, highway workers were clearing and topping trees to make way for traffic and telephone lines, causing an unsightly mess. Mrs. Patterson contacted the highway department directly and, as a result, the state appointed a landscape architect and six GCV members to the State Highway Commission* to ensure environmental considerations and aesthetics would factor into highway design. She then launched a GCV project to plant one million dogwood trees along state roads. Soon thereafter, Virginia was blanketed with our lovely state tree. Today, the GCV promotes roadside plantings, which include the creation of a pollinator pathway along state roads with the addition of pollinator-friendly native plants and trees.

In 1929, the Virginia Public Service Company tried to create an electric power development in Goshen Pass, in Rockbridge County near Lexington, which included a proposed 53-foot high dam. Mrs. Patterson argued that the dam would mar, if not destroy, the area’s incomparable natural beauty. Her efforts resulted in the defeat of the proposal thereby saving Goshen Pass. Over the past 100 years, the GCV has lobbied to save Goshen Pass at least four times, no doubt there will probably be cause to do it again.

Juanita Patterson’s spirit and vision are alive and well in the GCV. When she died in 1932, the Richmond News Leader, stated: “...could any Virginia woman of her day have asked for greater distinction than to be mourned as the mother of the glorious gardens that now brighten the Virginia landscape?”

—Heidi James, The Lynchburg Garden Club

*The State Highway Commission is now known as the Commonwealth Transportation Board. It operates under the purview of the Virginia Department of Transportation.

*The Women’s Land Army (WLA) was a civilian organization modeled after the British Women’s Land Army. It was created during both world wars to fill voids in the agriculture industry by replacing men called up to serve in the military. WLA women were also known as farmers.
Paula Pryke: I studied history and drama and, when I met my husband, I was working in a secondary school in East London. I think he gave me the confidence to try something new. I studied at the Constance Spry Flower School and worked in a West End flower shop. Eventually my husband and I bought my first shop in Islington, and we lived above it. At that time teachers earned about £50 a day, and we both naively thought that we could easily earn that out of a flower shop!

At the time I was probably too inexperienced to run my own business but the “fresh and natural” look was an immediate hit, and then the [Islington] area became a magnet for all kinds of creatives. Looking back it was quite amazing who would turn up. Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York, used to call in for flowers; George Harrison used to send a chauffeur. Kate Winslet and Cate Blanchett lived nearby and regularly called in. At the early stages of my business, Boris Johnson, who was also a client, used to cycle by on his way to the Houses of Parliament and complain about our van being in the bike lane when we were unloading it from the flower market at the start of the day.

Journal: Is there a “Paula Pryke” style and has it changed or evolved over the years?
PP: My style has adapted to the trends and changes of the fashion and advertising industry. At heart it has always been natural and simple and colorful. I think the flowers I designed for my first book look very current now. What goes around comes around again, and now I am pretty much back doing what I did at the beginning.

Journal: What are your favorite flowers/foliage to work with?
PP: The list for that question would be endless! However ranunculus, peonies, roses, sweet peas, dahlias would come in my top ten, and I adore bright green like Viburnum opulus [snowball viburnum] or Alchemilla mollis [lady’s mantle], silver...
In addition to selecting the right flowers and foliage, having the right equipment is essential for great floral design. Paula recommends the following be in every designer’s tool kit:

**ESSENTIALS:**
- Good sharp knife
- Strong, sharp pair of scissors
- Stem stripper
- Roll of chicken wire (wire with an exterior paper coating to protect stems)
- Flower food
- Buckets, cleaners and brushes
- Florist tape (preferably the clear variety)
- Watering cans
- Variety of vases

**EXTRAS:**
- Chicken wire
- Water tubes
- Zip ties
- Wires (variety of gauges)
- Bamboo skewers (for skewering heavy fruits and vegetables)
- Pins
- Decorative embellishments (e.g. rafia, jute, ribbons)

In addition to selecting the right flowers and foliage, having the right equipment is essential for great floral design. Paula recommends the following be in every designer’s tool kit:

**ESSENTIALS:**
- Good sharp knife
- Strong, sharp pair of scissors
- Stem stripper
- Roll of chicken wire (wire with an exterior paper coating to protect stems)
- Flower food
- Buckets, cleaners and brushes
- Florist tape (preferably the clear variety)
- Watering cans
- Variety of vases

**EXTRAS:**
- Chicken wire
- Water tubes
- Zip ties
- Wires (variety of gauges)
- Bamboo skewers (for skewering heavy fruits and vegetables)
- Pins
- Decorative embellishments (e.g. rafia, jute, ribbons)
Donors and Supporters in the Spotlight

Every gift is important to GCV. Every gift is honored and every donor recognized for their generosity and support. And we are finding new ways to say “Many Thanks!”

An Honor Roll of Donors will soon be introduced on the GCV website with timely and ongoing acknowledgments of your generosity. The listing of donors will no longer be included in the quarterly journal. Instead, the journal will publish a contributors’ insert annually and the Year in Review will note all gifts of that fiscal year. Perhaps you have heard . . . one may never say thank you too much!

What better way to celebrate our Centennial than with this delightful collection of humorous recollections from GCV members? Get ready to giggle. Compiled by Judy Perry (The Elizabeth River Garden Club) with artwork by Marcia Long (The Williamsburg Garden Club).

Available on the Shop page of the GCV website. $10 per copy plus shipping. Discounts available for 10 or more copies.

The Tulips are Frozen!

The Tulips are Frozen!

Waverly, Virginia 23184

Roller-Bottimore Foundation

Atlantic Union Bank

KnightBank

Hilldrup

Centennial

1920-2020
The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton, Boxwood, James River and Three Chopt Garden Clubs Richmond, Va. GCV District 1

Members of four Richmond garden clubs—The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton, James River, Boxwood, and Three Chopt—channeled New York florist and guerrilla artist extraordinary Lewis Miller by staging their own RVA “flower flash” in late June. Masked, gloved, distanced, and full of mischievous creativity, a team of flashers gathered in the garden of TGWC member Rose Marie Bundy. Fellow members dropped off hydrangeas, rudbeckias, coneflowers and viburnum. The team quickly crafted giant hearts made with greenery and chicken wire and fashioned dozens of colorful posies that would serve as the display’s surprise element. At dawn the next day, the arrangers assembled at Children’s Hospital of Richmond and the Virginia Treatment Center for Children to install the floral sculptures that would greet the unsuspecting essential workers, patients and families on that sunny morning. And the piece de resistance was the nearly 150 bouquets that were handed out as a dose of much-needed joy to those at the front lines. “So often the act of giving to others becomes a gift to ourselves,” said Barbara Yorgen, JRGC member and club flash coordinator. “Flower Flash was a wonderful opportunity to show the community’s gratitude to essential workers at two critical healthcare facilities for children. Watching their smiles when spoiling the spectacular flower heads and receiving bouquets was a lasting gift to all.”
—Laura Whiteman, The James River Garden Club

The Augusta Garden Club Staunton, Va. GCV District 3

Sharing the love of gardening and hospitality allowed members of the Augusta Garden Club to stay connected during the summer despite the absence of meetings due to Covid. Realizing that one of the blessings of being isolated at home was that many people had more time to focus on gardening, members were invited to open their gardens for a summer series of informal tours. “Wednesdays in Our Gardens” featured the gardens of 14 club members from mid-June through the end of July and ranged from winding woodland sites and rambling country flower and vegetable beds, to terraced town lawns and colorful patio gardens. The tours were well received with up to 33 visitors attending on most Wednesdays; a photo gallery was posted on the club website. As members strolled among shady paths, poolside perennial borders and colorful pots of annuals, the joy of reconnecting with each other was palpable. These Wednesday garden tours reinforced the club’s mission of encouraging the knowledge and love of gardening. Additional tours are planned for the fall.
—Deanne Brannock, The Augusta Garden Club

The James River Garden Club 

As one of our ongoing projects, Roanoke Valley Garden Club has planted and maintained several large containers in the railyard at the Virginia Museum of Transportation in Roanoke for many years. This year we added plantings to the six raised beds in the front of the museum. Three rain barrels were installed in July to capture stormwater runoff from the large roof surface and provide water for the shrubs and flowers in these beds. Area elementary school students submitted transportation-themed art to decorate the barrels with colorful drawings. Now that the museum is open again after closing due to Covid, visitors can see both the front beds that were planted thanks to a generous gift from Berglund Automotive and the flowering back planters, which we maintain each season. Inside, there is a new exhibit that details how rain barrels work and displays the additional art that Wendy McCauley’s 4th-grade students at Garden City Elementary School submitted. This project promotes water conservation and provides educational benefits to the 50,000 guests and school children who visit the museum each year.
—Eileen J. Dickey, Roanoke Valley Garden Club
available through well-established national programs, such as the American Daffodil Society, and the horticulture committee is excited to support those aspiring judges.

Horticulture Field Day is another favorite event for GCV members and horticulturists. Field Day offers a leisurely and up-close opportunity to examine form, structure and individual plants in featured gardens across different regions of Virginia. While Covid has impacted this year’s Field Day, plans are underway for a dynamic program in 2021.

During the next 100 years, Horticulture Committee members will continue embracing the highest standards of excellence. Our Horticulture Award of Merit winners will remain club leaders as we strive to emulate their work in our gardens and in our communities. Heidi James, Horticulture chairman (Lynchburg Garden Club), will build on prior years, as organic practices meet an educated group of gardeners determined to create a pollinator-friendly world. “A main focus for our committee going forward will be to hone in on the importance of landscape horticulture for our ecosystem and to educate our membership about how horticulture enhances the health and quality of life for the world at large,” says Heidi. “We aim to make ‘horticulture’ a familiar word, especially since we use plants for food, comfort and beautification. We hope to stimulate a love of gardening and a knowledge of horticulture by providing expertise and information to our club members and the general public, particularly the urgency of growing native plants, including native trees, shrubs, ground covers, vines and perennials.”

THE PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE OF PRESERVING VIRGINIA’S HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

The Garden Club of Virginia’s Centennial is an opportunity to reflect on all that our organization has accomplished to fulfill one of our founding missions: to aid in the restoration and preservation of historic gardens in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The GCV’s garden restoration initiatives began in 1924 when members voted to donate $500 to help save aged trees at The College of William & Mary. A similar request from the Jefferson Memorial Foundation to save trees planted in Thomas Jefferson’s estate at Monticello led to a 1926 flower show that raised $7,000 to fund the project. When the Kenmore Association made a request in 1928 to restore the gardens and grounds of Kenmore, the idea of a “garden pilgrimage” was born. The first Historic Garden Week began in 1929 to raise the needed funds. Following the GCV’s success at Kenmore, a request came from an association with a mission to preserve Stratford Hall and its gardens. A second Historic Garden Week was held and momentum officially took hold. For the better part of a century, our work in historic restoration continues with projects as varied as Bacon’s Castle, Monticello, Fincastle, Mount Vernon, Belmont and Virginia’s Executive Mansion—all funded with proceeds from Historic Garden Week. An application process allows eligible properties (at least 50 years old and not private) to make direct requests to the GCV Restoration Committee for funding. GCV leverages professional landscape architects to plan and oversee restoration projects. The GCV has worked with some of the 20th century’s most prominent practitioners including Charles Gillette, Arthur Shurcliff, Morley Williams, Alden Hopkins, Donald Parker, Ralph E. Griswold and Rudy Favretti. And, most recently, William D. Rieley has served as our landscape architect for over 20 years.

The most recent documentation of the restoration work of the GCV is Margaret Page Bemiss’ Historic Virginia Gardens: Preservation Work of the Garden Club of Virginia, 1975-2007. Margaret’s book follows Dorothy Hunt Williams’ Historic Virginia Gardens: Preservations by the Garden Club of Virginia and Gardens and Landscapes of Virginia. Our restoration work is now digitized and is available on the Virginia Museum of History & Culture website. A future project will be to document the work since 2007.

In addition to our work in restoration, the GCV has also established research fellowships including those in landscape architecture. The Research Fellowship Committee consists of GCV members and expert advisors who work with our landscape architect to select projects to be documented each summer, identify two fellows, and then oversee their restoration work. These projects are listed in our Directory & Handbook, and the finished projects are available online. Bound copies are also housed at the VMHC, the Kent-Valentine House and the Cherokee Garden Library. It is always exciting when projects cross the finish line. This year we completed garden projects at Stratford Hall and Point of Honor. Work is close to completion at Poplar Forest and is underway in a partnership with William & Mary to install a garden with plans drawn by Charles Gillette but never implemented.

Gardeners know that gardens change with time: The Restoration Committee liaisons visit our restoration projects regularly and are open to requests to revisit our work as needs change. As the science of archaeology improves, the future may bring new discoveries of hidden gardens to be restored. Whatever the future holds for new restorations, GCV members should take great pride in what we have accomplished together. Enjoy our presentations, then visit our projects and see the landscapes we have preserved for our commonwealth and for all to appreciate.

—Anne Baldwin, Restoration Committee Chairman (2018-2020), The Garden Club of Alexandria

GCV RESTORATION AND CLUB PROGRAMMING
If your club is looking for enriching programming ideas, consider showcasing the GCV’s work in historic landscape preservation. Restoration Committee members are available to present GCV restoration projects in PowerPoint programs to all clubs.

For more information contact Betsy Worthington, Restoration Committee Chairman (2020-2022), The Lynchburg Garden Club, at worthbetsy@comcast.net

NEWLY LAYED SOD AT THOMAS JEFFERSON’S POPULAR FOREST

Photo courtesy of Poplar Forest

AERIAL SHOT OF THE STRATFORD HALL GCV GARDEN RESTORATION

Photo by Matt Peterschmidt
D\nuring the GCV’s first meeting in May 1920, the membership agreed that the purpose of this new organization was to be “for good roads, against the billboard nuisance, for preservation of plants, roadsides, historic homes and gardens, conservation of native beauty, and warfare against pests.” To tackle these issues, the Conservation & Beautification Committee (C&B) was formed two years later in 1922 and became the GCV’s first committee.

Since its inception, the committee has relentlessly pursued protection of land and water, viewsheds, native plants, state parks and historic sites. A commitment to protect native wildlife and pollinators is a continued focus, as well as thoughtful advocacy for land use and support of measures to safeguard clean air and clean water. Gardening best practices are heartily endorsed along with the “Refuse to Use” campaign — refusing to use single-use plastics. Accomplishments are amplified not only through the work of the committee and member clubs but also through cooperative engagement with other GCV committees and organizations with similar priorities.

The first action item for the newly formed C&B Committee in 1922 was to conserve the state’s natural resources and “to educate the public about preserving the state’s wildflowers, native trees and shrubs.” Member clubs were urged to sponsor contests with prizes for school children explaining the importance of protecting native plants. These early conservationists addressed the “unsightly” cutting and topping of trees on the new interstate highway system, which were increasingly marring viewsheds. From 1928 to 1932, club members were known to paint over advertising slogans on rocks and wield axes to take down unsightly billboards. These efforts convinced the Virginia General Assembly to pass a bill that brought down 1,000 billboards across the state. Early conservation activists also undertook planting dogwood trees statewide with the slogan “One Million Dogwoods by 1935.” Together they rescued and restored trees planted in Jefferson’s era, an effort funded by staging an ambitious Monticello Flower Show.

Today’s C&B Committee and club chairmen work alongside like-minded partner organizations to support responsible energy transmission infrastructure that doesn’t threaten landscapes, historic viewsheds and wildlife. We advocate for legislative funding to clean up our rivers and streams. We strive to use alternatives to single-use plastics. We advocate against offshore drilling and seismic testing.

Now in its 62nd year, the committee sponsors conservation forums and workshops that address timely environmental education topics germane to the GCV’s mission. In 2015, the Conservation-Environmental Studies Fellowship was established and first awarded to Nikki Andresen, a Virginia Commonwealth University student, whose project investigated optimal soil condition and nutrients. The most recent recipients of this annual fellowship are Heather Kenny (2019), a master’s degree student in biology at the College of William & Mary, who is studying the effect of noise pollution on bluebird behavior, and Emily Riff (2020) from VCU, whose research focuses on native and invasive dune grasses.

We have been deeply impacted by visionary leaders, both within the GCV and beyond. Their journeys inspire us—and the next generation—to timely action. We listen. We learn. We act. Annually we honor them through the Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award, the Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award, the de Lacy Gray Memorial Medal and Conservation Educator awards.

Today we may have more advanced communication tools than in 1922, but our commitment and esprit de corps remain the same. And, just as our forebears were committed to “preserving the beauty of the land,” the Conservation and Beautification Committee will continue to help propel the GCV’s mission to preserve and protect the extraordinary beauty and natural resources of Virginia.

—Allison Clock, Conservation and Beautification Committee Chairman (2020-2022), The Hampton Roads Garden Club

DON’T MISS HEATHER KENNY’S VIDEO AT GCCVIRGINIA.ORG

This 2019 Conservation and Environmental Studies Fellowship recipient discusses her research on “Eastern Bluebirds” nesting habitats and their response to surrounding noise pollution in a short video available on the GCV website.
What GCV clubs can do:

- Consider showcasing properties that feature native plant gardens for Historic Garden Week.
- Incorporate native plants in flower arrangements—in your home and at flower shows.
- Support legislation to encourage the use of native plants at the local, state, and federal level.
- Encourage VDOT to use native plants.
- Feature articles in club newsletters about the importance of using native plants.
- Include native plant experts/speakers in your club programming.
- Encourage member clubs to initiate projects using native plants.

New to native plants?

- Explore plants native to Virginia on plantvirginianatives.org, a website cosponsored by NOAA and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Lists of native plants by region are downloadable as pdfs.
- Search for native plants by ZIP code on the National Wildlife Federation’s online plant finder at nwf.org/nativeplantfinder.

Tallamy suggests including “keystone” plants in your landscape—powerhouse plants that provide the most food for insects and birds. His favorite is the white oak—Quercus alba—which supports 337 species of caterpillars, which in turn supports a plethora of wildlife and small mammals. Compare it to the ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba) which supports none. Next time you’re out and about, take a look at the critter activity in and around an oak tree, then a ginkgo. You’ll see there is no comparison. Photo courtesy of Doug Tallamy.
This year’s official state history ornament features a painting from the VMHC’s collection, a stunning view of land that would one day become Shenandoah National Park. In securing support for the park’s creation, the Garden Club helped safeguard 79,000 acres of wilderness.

IN HONOR OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA’S CENTENNIAL

This year’s official state history ornament features a painting from the VMHC’s collection, a stunning view of land that would one day become Shenandoah National Park. In securing support for the park’s creation, the Garden Club helped safeguard 79,000 acres of wilderness.

EXCLUSIVELY FOR GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS
SAVE 20% WITH CODE GCV2020
SHOPVIRGINIAHISTORY.ORG