

THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA
JOURNAL



Winter 2021 | Volume LXVI | No. 1

Will Rieley on GCV's Restorations
Historic Plants with Peggy Cornett | Applause & Ex Libris

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Winter 2021 | Volume LXVI | No.1

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.

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Fall	October	August 1

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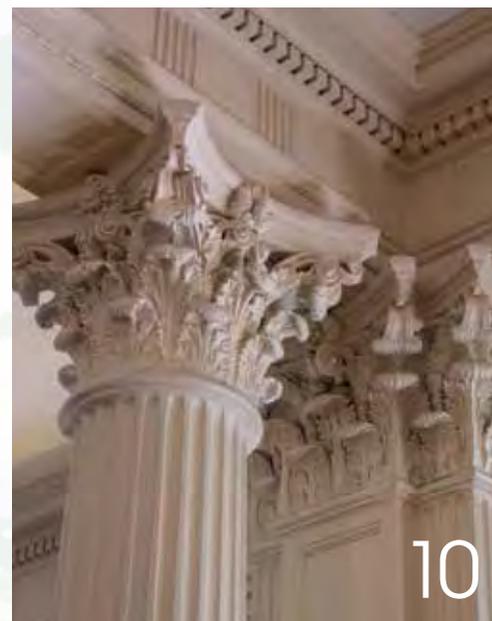
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Content page photo credits: Clockwise from top left:

Column detail at the KVMH, photo by Ben Greenberg; Peggy Cornett in Monticello's vegetable garden, photo courtesy of Peggy Cornett; The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton's Meredith Lauter masterfully arranging flowers, photo by Jill Mountcastle; Lynn McCashin's retirement luncheon at the KVMH, photo by Quan McGough

CORRECTION

The photograph of Monticello that appeared on page 29 of the *Fall 2020 Journal* was misattributed. It was taken by Catriona Tudor Erler (Albemarle Garden Club). We regret the oversight.

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WILL RIELEY TALKS GCV RESTORATIONS

Don't miss it! See page 16

ON THE COVER: ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

JINX CONSTINE



"I want my paintings to transport the viewer," says cover artist Jinx Constine. Judging by her striking, wintry landscape, *First Snow*, she accomplishes exactly that.

A member of the Boxwood Garden Club, Jinx is the daughter and granddaughter of painters, and began to pick up the brush herself in mid-life. She soon took on the challenge of *plein air* painting while traveling with friends and family. While she frequently sets her eye on woodsy landscapes in Nelson County, she can just as readily evoke the breezy atmosphere of the Florida Gulf Coast, a dazzling Sedona mountain scape or a salty blow on the coast of Maine.

"I want my paintings to carry the viewer to a place that takes them away from their everyday cares," says Jinx, "a place that might be special to them—be it a memory, a real place or somewhere they would like to visit. While the scene I paint might be real, I try to paint the impression of the scene rather than the actual spot."

Jinx says painting for her is like meditation, an escape from reality. "It is so easy for me to get lost in a painting before I realize that hours have passed. My desire is for the viewer to experience a similar feeling."



Recently, a marbled orb-weaver, a spectacularly colored spider, caught Jinx's eye. "It's that kind of wonder in nature that compels me, and art is a nature unto itself." What a pleasure it is to see the world through Jinx's artful eyes.

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

ABOVE LEFT: *First Snow*, 36" x 36," oil on canvas
ABOVE: Jinx Constine. Photo by Jeanette McKittrick

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THRIVING IN THE NEW YEAR



It is no exaggeration to say that the Garden Club of Virginia is having our moment.

While facing the challenges of the past months, we have recognized the need to pause, reflect, make plans and change plans. We now have the opportunity to begin this new year by moving forward on what is sure to be an exciting path. It is my great hope that 2021 will bring renewed energy to all Garden Club of Virginia members and friends.

I continue to be inspired by the ways our members have reached out over the past months to support first responders, health care workers and those in need in their communities. Clubs and GCV committees have found creative new ways to inform, educate and stay connected. Together we are moving forward to ensure that the work of the Garden Club of Virginia across our commonwealth continues to be both meaningful and lasting.

By having a hand in protecting and reimagining the world around us, we will be able to shape our future.

Enjoy this interesting and informative 2021 winter *Journal*, and know that it will be from your active engagement that the Garden Club of Virginia will continue to thrive.

Missy Buckingham
GCV President, 2020-2022

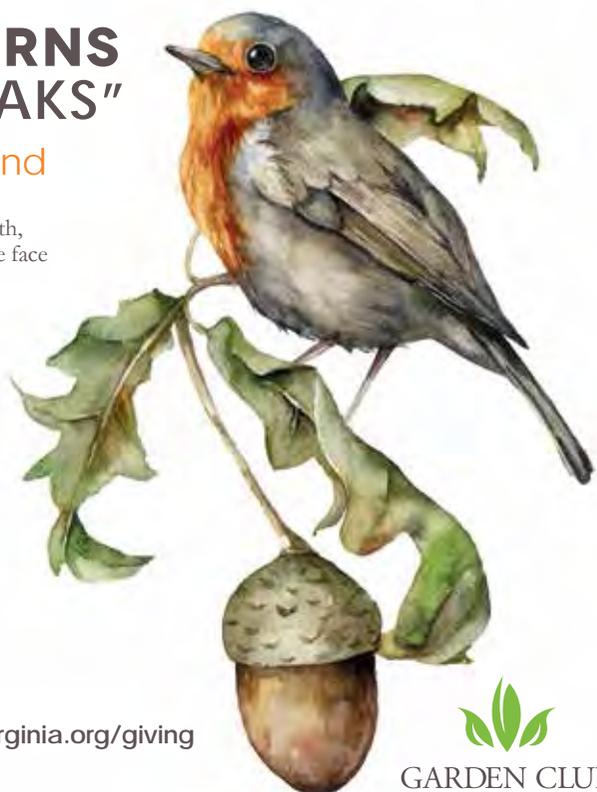


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Support the GCV Annual Fund

According to legend, the acorn is a symbol of strength, patience, perseverance and hard work. As together we face challenging times it will be the continued hard work, commitment and support of our mission that will move the Garden Club of Virginia forward into a successful second century. | In this our Centennial year, we are reminded of the determination, foresight and accomplishments of our predecessors. We now have the opportunity to build on the strength and resilience of this 100-year-old organization. I am inspired by the way our work across the commonwealth has provided strong roots and a firm foundation from which to grow. It also brings us together. | Please join me and fellow members with your support of the 2020-2021 Garden Club of Virginia Annual Fund.

— Missy Buckingham, *GCV President 2020-2022*



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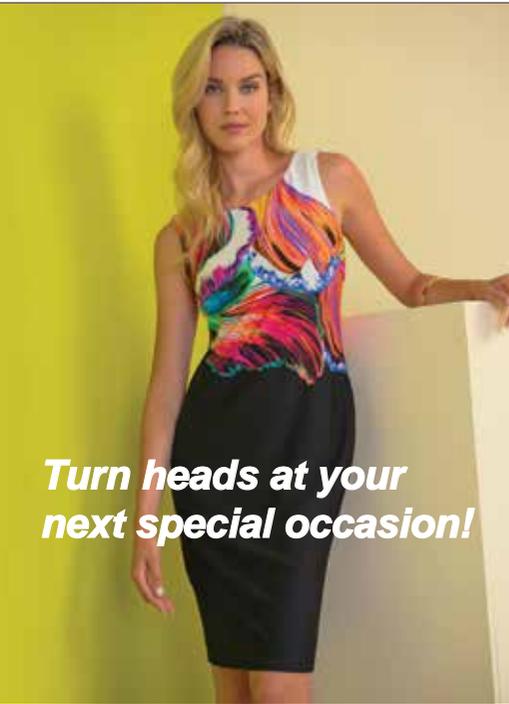
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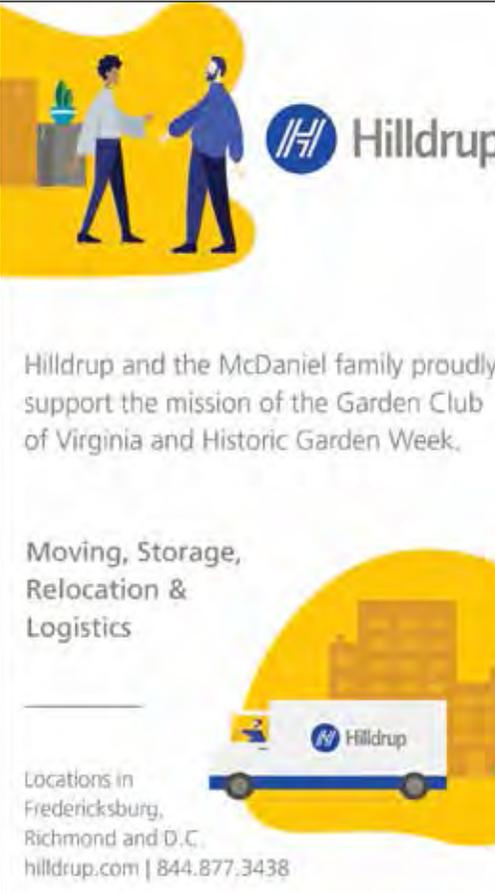
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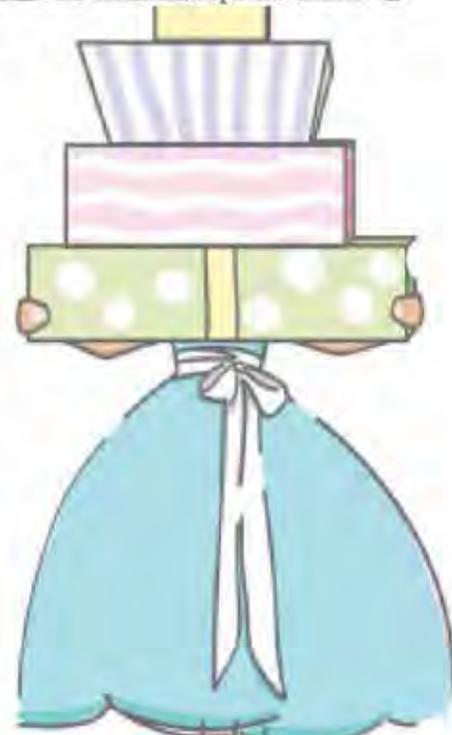
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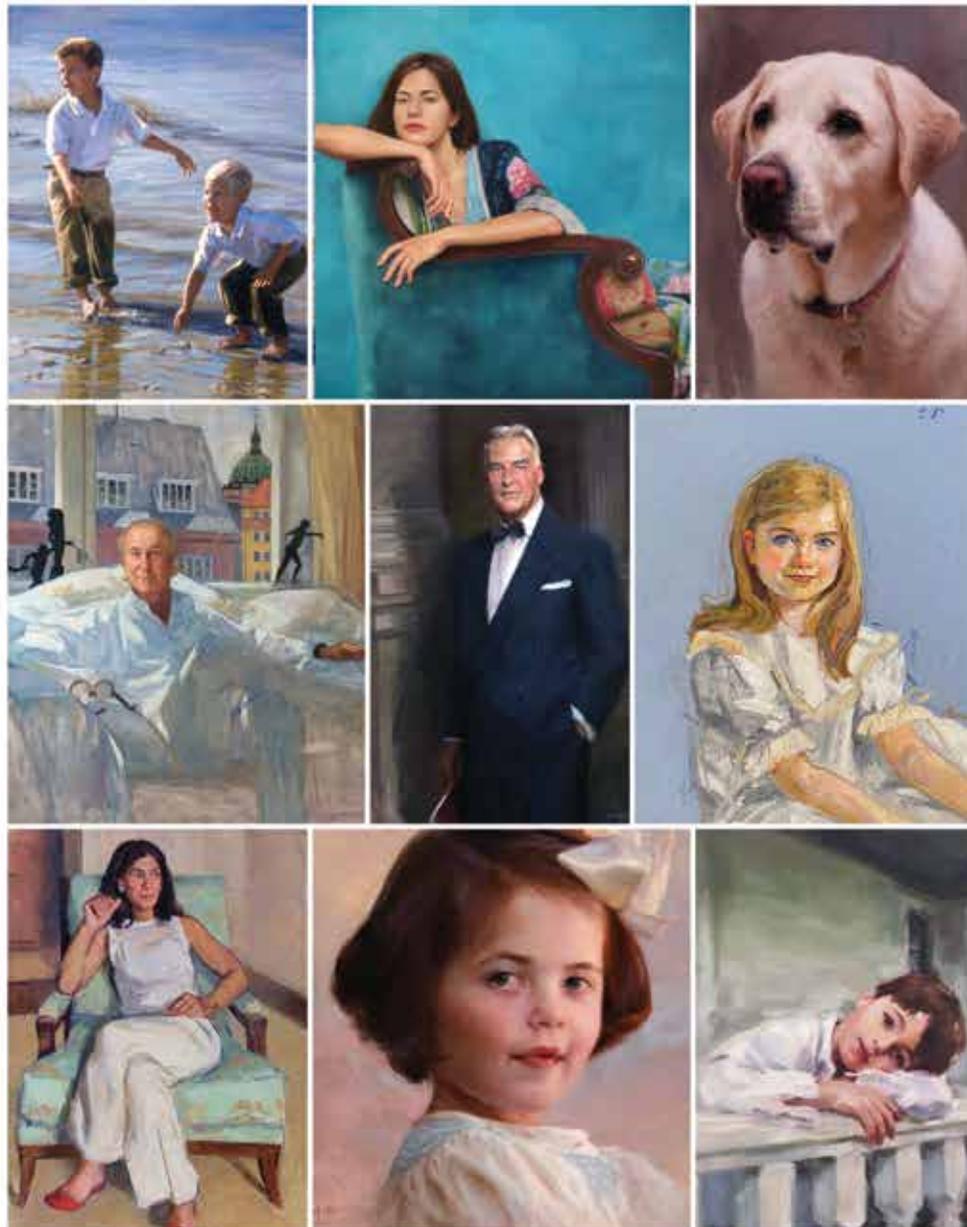
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HAPPY 2021



It's a whole new year. For many of us, 2021 couldn't get here fast enough.

With this winter issue of the *Journal*, the second in our new redesign, our focus is on the GCV's ongoing restoration initiatives. We bring you a glimpse into two recent restoration projects that are among the most extensive and exciting in our long history — Poplar Forest and the Reveley Garden at William & Mary. Best of all, the article is

written from the perspective of Will Rieley. Who better to review nuances of these important projects than the GCV's landscape architect? Also included in our pages is a fascinating conversation with Monticello's Curator of Plants Peggy Cornett, who is frequently tapped to consult on our restoration projects.

Additionally, Anne Geddy Cross, Kent-Valentine House chairman, takes us through the details of the extensive restoration at GCV headquarters. Other articles we know you'll find interesting include an interview with Bettie Guthrie, the official keeper of the Centennial Time Capsule; a review of important safety precautions in store for HGW 2021; and a fond farewell to Lynn McCashin, who retired December 30 after ten years as the GCV's Executive Director. Read all about the fine work of several GCV committees, including an interview with Rob Allen from Bartlett Tree Experts, who has partnered with the Restoration Committee in a Day of Service program to address critical tree work at key restoration sites.

It's said that maintaining connections—with friends, family and community—is the best way to cope with a pandemic-driven shutdown. While we look forward to a different reality in the new year, in the meantime GCV clubs have been busy rising to social distance challenges in myriad ways. You'll no doubt find inspiration in our SNIPS section from clubs that are finding inventive approaches to stay connected with their memberships. All in all, this issue is chock-a-block full of compelling content and dynamic design.

Thank you—our readers throughout the GCV—for your support. We encourage your feedback and comments. And, as always, we are grateful to the GCV's leadership team; their guidance and dedication make this publication possible.



Madeline Mayhood

Madeline Mayhood
GCV Journal Editor
journal@gcvirginia.org

KVH

Restorations at the Kent-Valentine House

Enter the iron gates of 12 East Franklin Street in Richmond, and you are in for a treat. The Kent-Valentine House, on both the state and national landmark registries and GCV headquarters since 1971, is ready for a celebration. We missed our chance last May to show her off as part of the Centennial Founders Day festivities. Alas, that was not to be. Activities in the house stopped and only a skeleton staff came to work. I had just become KVH chairman, and when I finally walked into an almost empty house, its beauty took my breath away. Usually I am there for a meeting and

distracted. It was odd to be in the house without the chatter of visiting GCV members. My quiet visit gave me the chance to take it all in. The architectural details are fascinating and the furnishings are exquisite.



Most are gifts from GCV members or their families. In anticipation of the GCV

Centennial, the house was extensively refreshed. For several years Executive Director Lynn McCashin worked with former KVH Chairmen Alice Martin and Jody Branch and the KVH Committee to identify the capital needs. The Development Committee supported pursuing the needed funds. The landscape was revitalized with help from the Restoration Committee and Will Rieley, GCV Landscape Architect.

The house now has a new roof and fresh paint on the exterior. Inside, newly painted walls and refinished floors provide the backdrop for reupholstered furniture. The colors and designs are elegant and the fabric is durable. On the third floor water damage has been repaired, and there is new lighting, paint and carpet.

The gilded mirrors, gifts from the Valentines, are a highlight of the house. As work in the house

progressed, it became clear that they too needed restoration, so a Mirror Campaign was launched. Russell Bernabo, a highly respected fine arts conservator and specialist in gold leaf, has completed five of the seven mirrors.

There is new artwork in the house. In honor of the Centennial, the Historic Garden Week Committee commissioned an oil painting of the house by Beth Marchant. Her watercolors of homes on the tour each year have been highlights of the *HGW Guidebook*.

The original builder of the house in 1845 is home! Portraits of Horace Kent, a Richmond merchant, and his wife, Elizabeth, now hang in the east parlor. J. Kent Brown and Duane G. Brown, great-great grandchildren of the Kents', donated the portraits as well as portraits of Elizabeth Kent's mother and brother. The Kent family owned the house until 1875, when it was sold to Charles Talbott. In 1904 Granville Gray Valentine and his wife purchased the house. They made many changes, including a two-story addition to the east side, the portico with Corinthian columns and a kitchen wing.

In 1970 the Garden Club of Virginia was looking for a headquarters. The Valentines wished to sell the house at 12 East Franklin. It was a perfect match. Prior to that Historic Garden Week had operated out of two rented rooms at the Jefferson Hotel. They needed more space, so the GCV purchased the house thanks to a gracious arrangement facilitated by James River Garden Club member Mrs. William T. Reed, Jr. The elevator wing and tower were added in 1996.

In September 2020, the Kent-Valentine House re-opened with CDC-recommended



protocols including masks and social distancing. This limits the number of people we can accommodate. We had hoped to entertain many GCV members and clubs when they visited the GCV exhibition at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture from May to November. We have had a few small groups from clubs. Our first event was a lovely, socially distanced and masked box lunch for former GCV presidents. It has been wonderful to welcome our members again.

It is so good to once again fill the house with beautiful flowers. The four Richmond clubs plus Petersburg and Ashland take turns arranging. Most of the plant material is from members' gardens. They bring immense joy both to the staff and guests. The flowers are back, and I hope that it won't be long before the house comes to life with meetings and visitors from across the state.

—Anne Geddy Cross, Kent-Valentine House Chairman, The Ashland Garden Club



All photos of Kent-Valentine House restoration details by Ben Greenberg for the Garden Club of Virginia



2020 GCV BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETINGS

As another "first," an untraditional approach was taken this year to bring the business of the Garden Club of Virginia to its leadership with six separate events held across the state. The Board of Directors took on this organizational challenge by scheduling meetings and luncheons in open air venues with attendees limited to the former presidents, club presidents, board members and committee chairmen residing in each of our districts. Full reports were emailed in advance and abbreviated reports made at each meeting, including a question and answer session and networking opportunity. The chance to become better informed, to share information and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow members was appreciated by all.

Photos from BOG meeting in District 1 by Molly Carey; photos from BOG meetings in Districts 2, 4 and 5 by Edie Hessberg; photos from BOG meeting in District 3 by Sandy Geiger; photos from BOG meeting District 6 by Dana Parker



GCV DISTRICT 1



Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond

- Ashland • Boxwood • Brunswick
- James River • Petersburg
- Three Chopt • Three Rivers
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GCV DISTRICT 6



Hermitage Museum & Gardens, Norfolk

- Eastern Shore • Elizabeth River
- Franklin • Harborfront
- Nansemond River • Norfolk
- Princess Anne
- Virginia Beach



Although her professional accomplishments have been impressive, her personal demeanor is notable for her modesty and graciousness. Rarely has her office door been closed.

Farewell

As the Garden Club of Virginia reaches the end of its own first century, we must bid a heartfelt adieu to Lynn McCashin, whose clear eyes and determination ushered this particular organization into the 21st century.

In 2010, the GCV was at a point where outside demands and internal complexities required that significant changes be made in the management of the club in order to continue to pursue its mission in meaningful ways. The first step in the process was to hire a fully engaged executive director who would oversee the entire GCV operation, including fiscal management, personnel, the running of the Kent-Valentine House and who was committed to supporting the Board of Directors in its implementation of the mission of the Garden Club of Virginia.

We were fortunate that Lynn McCashin walked through the gate of the Kent-Valentine

House. Armed with a bachelor's degree from Boston University and a master's degree from East Carolina University, Lynn had broad experience working with nonprofits and was not only comfortable but appreciative of the depth of responsibilities assumed by GCV volunteers. Lynn's challenge was to define the best uses of our resources and explore fresh possibilities to further the work of the GCV.

An ice hockey fanatic, Lynn has scored a hat trick for the GCV. While keeping her focus on the daily business of the

GCV, she also has reorganized the staff and supervised the restoration of the Kent-Valentine House. Although her professional accomplishments have been impressive, her personal demeanor is notable for her modesty and graciousness. Rarely has her office door been closed.

Lynn looks forward to spending more time with her children and grandchildren but plans to remain in Richmond. It is our hope that she will visit often.

—Kim Nash, GCV President, 2010-2012, The Warrenton Garden Club



President Missy Buckingham presenting Lynn McCashin with a Certificate of Appreciation and a GCV pendant for her exemplary service at a luncheon in her honor at the KVH last month. Lynn retired on December 31 after ten years as GCV executive director. *Photo by Quan McCough*

TOURS WITH A TWIST

The Historic Garden Week State Committee has been working towards 2021 by listening, benchmarking and meeting via Zoom—a lot. The communication has been constant and extremely helpful as we navigate together towards a less chaotic future. Our most popular event is being planned with precautionary measures in place to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for our members, volunteers, homeowners and of course, visitors.

With tour chairs anticipating that some of their club members may not feel comfortable hosting on tour days, processes have been put in place regarding online ticketing to reduce the number of visitors to a manageable number. This should help make the day a better experience for everyone. Since September, GCV leadership and the HGW State Committee have emphasized that the goal for this spring's tours is not the numbers—it is to build a positive and rewarding tour day for all involved.

Here are some of the changes that have been made for HGW 2021. First, tickets for all 30 HGW tours will be available on January 22 at our website, VAGardenWeek.org, only. To achieve a touchless experience, to guarantee that all purchasers agree to the terms and conditions outlined during the ticketing process and to effectively manage the myriad of ticketing options offered in 2021, there will be no advance ticket locations for any tours statewide. To ensure adequate social distancing, tickets will sell out at the capacity each tour team has determined is best for their particular tour. We anticipate that many tours will therefore “sell out,” making same-day purchases unnecessary.

Secondly, ticketing itself will be customized. All tour chairs submitted the total amount of tickets—given the human resources available—they felt comfortable welcoming to their area of the state and exactly how they wanted to offer these tickets. Some tours will implement timed tickets, selling a restricted number of tickets for a given time slot. Others will sell a morning or an afternoon ticket to ensure the flow of visitors throughout the day is manageable.

Tours were also encouraged to evaluate the cost of their tour ticket. Since many tours are planning “garden only” tours, or at least emphasizing outside spaces rather than designing a tour that relies completely on the strength of interiors, our advice was to provide fair value and to over-deliver, rather than disappoint fans of this popular event. As I write this article in November we still don't know if access to interiors will be safe or prudent when April arrives. As previously shared, the HGW State Committee will communicate these types of decisions no later than February 24 to both members and to the public, ensuring a consistent message and protocol for all 30 tours. Per our usual process, the HGW office will be producing all signage and communicating pertinent information to ensure consistency for 2021 tours across the state.

The GCV Board is supportive of these changes, which are both realistic and conservative. While everyone's safety is of paramount importance, it is critical that our sponsors and advertisers receive the recognition they expect this spring, since so much of the overall revenue of this important fundraiser comes from their support, not from ticket sales. We hope that continued candid conversations, a plan that is thorough, methodical and supports all tours, as well as timely communication with all stakeholders will go a long way to ease any concerns around Historic Garden Week 2021. If you have any questions or ideas, please contact us at info@VAGardenWeek.org.

—Tricia Garner, Historic Garden Week State Chairman, The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club

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GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA
Historic Garden Week

Photo by Donna Moulton



Poplar Forest

GCV'S NEWLY MINTED RESTORATIONS:
PROJECTS AT POPLAR FOREST AND WILLIAM & MARY'S
REVELEY GARDEN MOVE TOWARD COMPLETION DESPITE THE PANDEMIC

By Will Rieley, PLA, Rieley & Associates Landscape Architect, The Garden Club of Virginia

RESTORATIONS



Looking west toward Crim Dell at William & Mary

William & Mary

COVID-19 continues to test our patience, but the Garden Club of Virginia's work at Jefferson's Poplar Forest and William & Mary is coming to fruition. There were adjustments to be sure—masked contractors on the job site for one—but two newly minted spaces will be waiting to welcome the public when this is behind us.

The GCV's decade-long involvement to return the front of Poplar Forest to its appearance during Jefferson's lifetime is a traditional restoration based on the archaeological findings of Poplar Forest's staff. The three phases of work began in 2011 with the restoration of Jefferson's mulberry allée to the west of the house. He used trees to create a natural arcade and mounds perhaps to mimic the hyphens of classical architecture that connected the main building

to pavilions at each end. He chose paper mulberries (*Broussonetia papyrifera*) because they grew fast and he believed Virginia shade was "our elysium," especially so around the house. Since the paper mulberry is considered invasive, male plants were used. In the nine years since they have been in place, they have grown substantially and already cast a dense shade to recreate Jefferson's shady bower.



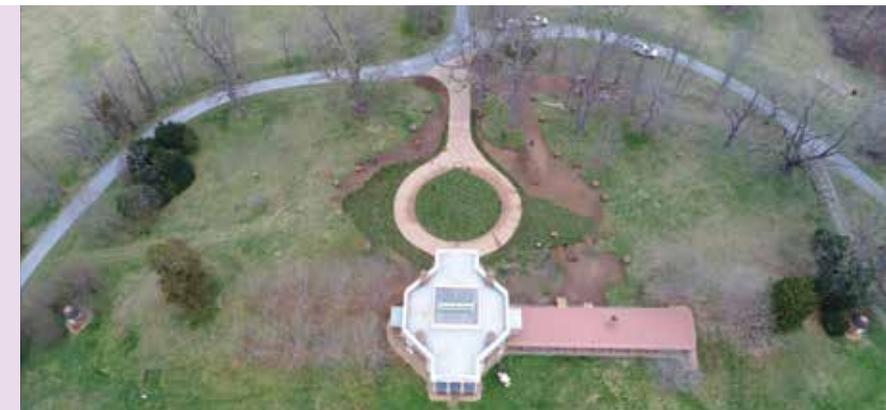
ABOVE: Clump from Jefferson's bedroom at Poplar Forest in spring; BELOW: Aerial of sod installation at Poplar Forest showing the carriage circle renovation; All Poplar Forest photos courtesy of Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest

On the heels of the mulberry planting, the clumps which framed the house were planted in 2013. Again, archaeology revealed the location of the trees Jefferson used and his notes held a list of what he planted—calycanthus; Athenian and balsam poplars; tulip poplars; locusts and Kentucky coffeetrees; redbuds and dogwoods. Research into the method of planting clumps during that period allowed us to connect the dots and understand that the location of the plants was based on a spiral pattern that is consistent with Jefferson designs at Monticello. The new clumps at Poplar Forest are the only known restoration of this feature in America which is also known to have been planted by others, including George Washington at Mount Vernon and Alexander Hamilton at the Grange. It was a popular design element in English landscape gardens, and Jefferson made note of them when he and John Adams toured England in the spring of 1786.

COMPLETED LAST SPRING, THE CARRIAGE CIRCLE IS ALSO THE ONLY KNOWN RE-CREATION OF A PARTICULAR PAVING METHOD COMMON DURING JEFFERSON'S LIFETIME.

Extensive excavations uncovered the original surface of quartz stones pounded into the clay—a rustic cobblestone treatment, as it were. After geotextile protective fabric and a structural slab were in place, masons constructed a new surface that reflected what remains below. Nearby Bass Sod Farm donated the quartz churned up from their fields, a perfect match for Jefferson's stones. Next a custom mortar color was designed to look like the original clay. Masons from Charles Funk, Inc. laid each stone by hand to tight tolerances. The boundaries of the circle also match Jefferson's configuration precisely. The result gives a clear picture of the foreground to the house as designed by Jefferson.

The three oval beds framing the carriage circle are set to



be planted shortly. Two smaller beds on the east and west sides of the circle we know Jefferson planted with bristly locust on one side and small roses on the other. The north front bed located at the edge of the circle in front of the house contained large roses. Our friend and collaborator, Peggy Cornett, is an expert on historic plants, particularly the ones grown by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello. She selected and procured roses he was known to have grown. As with the GCV's previous work here, the restored oval beds at Poplar Forest will be located, configured and planted as we know Jefferson did.

Alyson Ramsey, president and CEO of the corporation for Jefferson's Poplar Forest, noted with regret that the beautiful carriage circle has been enjoyed by so few people since its completion last spring. On the bright side, the oval beds planted with roses and bristly locust—the crowning touch—will be in place well in advance of Historic Garden Week 2021. Poplar Forest is ready to welcome all comers to see the restoration of Jefferson's mulberry allée, clumps and carriage circle with oval beds. It is a truly unique restoration that advances our knowledge of Jefferson's landscape and design principles of that era.



RESTORATIONS

The masons of Charles Funk, Inc. installed looping geometric brick walks (nearly 2,000 linear feet!) that weave together to provide a circuit through the garden connecting the circular steps at the east end to Jefferson Hall. At the elevated end of the garden, there is a distant view of the Crim Dell. A central feature is a pair of arbors with benches that will soon be shaded by climbing roses. Grelen Nursery planted new shade trees that add to the

college's arboretum and include parrotia; *Acer skutchii*, the rare Mexican mountain sugar maple; *stewartia*; 'Green Gable'TM black gum; 'Prairie Titan'TM Kentucky coffeetree; American hophornbeam; bur oak; and katsura tree. An ancient mulberry retains its place of honor.

William & Mary looks forward to spring when all will enjoy the Reveley Garden. The last of the planting work is underway, and Jeff O'Dell of Mountain

Laurel Landscaping reports the arbors and garden are already frequented and appreciated by the students.

ABOVE: Reveley Garden tree and planting plan at William & Mary

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP: View toward Jefferson Hall at the Reveley Garden at William & Mary

BELOW: Drone photo courtesy of Charles Funk

Unless noted, all William & Mary/Reveley Garden photos courtesy of Rieley & Associates



THE INSTALLATION OF THE REVELEY GARDEN AT WILLIAM & MARY TRANSFORMED AN EXISTING UTILITY CORRIDOR INTO AN OUTDOOR SPACE, WITH WALKS AND OPEN GRASSY AREAS, THAT ALSO SERVES AS A GREEN FOREGROUND ADJACENT TO MANY OF THE CAMPUS BUILDINGS.

At the college's request, the GCV undertook this work as a tribute to Taylor Reveley, the outgoing president, and his wife, Helen, in honor of their dedicated service to the college and its students. *[Helen is a member of the James River Garden Club.]*

While not strictly a restoration, the model for the garden was based on a plan drawn in 1926 by Charles Gillette's office, a noted Virginia landscape architecture firm. It was never built and the plan required some adjustment to make it work with the new modern surroundings. The design might be more accurately described as a modern interpretation of the Gillette scheme, but the garden very much reflects the spirit of its original organization.

The Restoration Committee is grateful that, though so much had to be canceled or put on hold in 2020, these two new restorations gave us all a sense of purpose and anticipation for their completion. The hard work of Garden Club of Virginia members made them a reality—something tangible in our all-too-virtual world.



A VISIT WITH MONTICELLO'S HISTORIC PLANT AMBASSADOR, PEGGY CORNETT

By Heidi James, GCV Horticulture Chairman, The Lynchburg Garden Club

I recently had the pleasure of touring Monticello with Peggy Cornett, Curator of Plants. Born into a family of avid gardeners, Peggy received undergraduate degrees in English and botany from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and a master's degree in public horticulture from the University of Delaware's Longwood Graduate Program. Her career at Monticello began in 1983, when she was appointed assistant director of grounds and gardens under Peter Hatch. She then served as the director of their Center for Historic Plants (CHP) from 1992-2009, where she focused on collecting period plants—both ornamental and edibles—from other historic sites. Now Peggy oversees everything related to plants at Monticello, which covers 2,500 acres at multiple sites, and coordinates Monticello's public garden education programs. Not surprisingly, Peggy has been recognized regionally and nationally for her outstanding contributions

to horticulture. She is a regular consultant on GCV restoration projects, frequently working closely with the Restoration Committee and Will Rieley, GCV's landscape architect.

Our tour also included Monticello's Center for Historic Plants at nearby Tufton Farm. There, Peggy pointed out some of her favorite historic plants. She highlighted a native, swamp rose, *Rosa palustris*, a vigorously blooming perennial native called *Conoclinium coelestinum*, blue mistflower and a beloved shrub, the *Callicarpa americana*, or beautyberry, which produces purplish-magenta seeds that mockingbirds love. A plant sign indicated that Jefferson documented the beautyberry in 1771. Peggy also indicated his eponymous twinleaf plant, *Jeffersonia diphylla*, a member of the barberry family. Tufton's operations include a plant nursery, bee yard and cattle ranch. Food, flowers, seeds and honey are produced and sold at Monticello's Museum Shop and online, and a fruit and nut

orchard is being developed. The CHP collects, propagates, preserves and displays historic plant varieties important in American gardens during Jefferson's lifetime.

Excerpts of my conversation with Peggy—in which we talked about Jefferson, native plants, restoration and historic plants in the landscape—follow...

Heidi James: You have helped on so many GCV restoration projects over the years. If a new restoration project gets the green light, tell us where you might come in and in what capacity.

Peggy Cornett: It depends on the site, but primary sources of information are crucial for an accurate restoration. And if there's archaeology, you can find root stains, fence lines, layout of gardens, and you can even do pollen analysis to find out if there were grasses or woods in the space. Archaeology is pretty sophisticated now and you can sometimes even find seeds, but it's an expensive process.

HJ: What plants did Jefferson have that you are partial to and are there any that you dislike?

PC: We just saw the blackberry lily, *Iris domestica*, which is a species from China that Jefferson grew and which had naturalized at Monticello. The plants we are growing here today may be survivors from Jefferson's time period, which makes them extra special. There's also the tassel hyacinth, *Muscari comosum* at Monticello, which is a lot like our grape hyacinth. We think ours also may be survivors from Jefferson's period. Then, there's the golden raintree, which is controversial. Jefferson is thought to have planted the first one in the U.S. from seeds that were sent to him by Madame de Tessé of France. The seeds were from China. He wrote to her to say that the trees reminded him of their friendship when he was the ambassador to France. This species is now considered invasive in western regions of the U.S. He did NOT, however, introduce the ailanthus tree. There's a rumor out there that he introduced it, but it's not true. He did grow the mimosa tree, which he got from William Hamilton in Philadelphia. William Hamilton actually introduced the ailanthus and ginkgo.

HJ: Did Jefferson like any particular native plants?

PC: Yes, Jefferson liked native plants. The *Callicarpa* or beautyberry, the native honeysuckle, the native *Bignonia* or crossvine, the *Calycanthus* or sweetshrub and many native trees. On the very first page of his Garden Book, a diary he kept for over 60 years, he observed native plants in the Monticello forest and along the Rivanna River such as the Virginia bluebell, the bloodroot and the dwarf crested iris. Jefferson's only published book, *Notes on the State of Virginia*, documents dozens of native species in our region.

HJ: Did Jefferson have favorite native trees?

PC: Yes, he admired the tulip poplar and the white oak, which he called the "Juno and Jupiter of our groves." And he loved the red cedar because it was a favorite nesting site of his favorite bird, the mockingbird—he had pet mockingbirds. Jefferson's observations of the importance for habitat for wildlife echoes the same message promoted by writers, such as Doug Tallamy, today.

HJ: Do you see a resurgence of interest in native plants because people now know they are important for the environment?

PC: I think that's a good thought. Many historic plants are the straight species and there is interest in those again versus the cultivars, so yes. But there is still interest in historic ornamental plants, too. The reason we focus on native species so heavily here at the CHP is because Jefferson himself was a proponent of native plants. Jefferson was honored to have a wildflower named for him by the botanist Benjamin Smith Barton, who was a member of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. Barton named the plant (*Jeffersonia diphylla*) for Thomas Jefferson, not for his political life but because of his knowledge of botany and natural history, which he said was equaled by few others in America. Jefferson was a member of the American Philosophical Society for 17 years and served as its president. They promote the study of science and natural history and enlightenment thought and still exist today. Jefferson documented a lot of native plants and observed nature acutely. He promoted native plants and also sent them to his friends in Europe.



PHOTOS THIS PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM: *Jeffersonia diphylla*, known as twinleaf, was named by Benjamin Smith Barton as a nod to Jefferson's knowledge of botany and natural history. Photo from Wikimedia Commons

Peggy is Monticello's Curator of Plants. The landscape reflects her deep knowledge of horticulture, historic plants and Jefferson's botanical legacy. Photo courtesy of the Garden Club of Virginia

Callicarpa americana, beautyberry, with its bright magenta berries preferred by mockingbirds, was one of Jefferson's favorite shrubs. Photo from Wikimedia Commons

PHOTO PREVIOUS PAGE: Peggy Cornett among a border of silver dollar plants (*Lunaria biennis*) at Monticello.



GCV DISTRICT 1

1

The James River Garden Club

RICHMOND

As COVID continues to impact our ability to safely gather and enjoy the fellowship and friendships of garden club meetings, James River Garden Club President Mary Bacon and her program committee schemed to offer alternative ways to connect with membership. Actual club meetings have, for the most part, moved to a Zoom platform, but they'd heard through the garden club grapevine that pop-up workshops, scaled back for safety's sake, were successful in keeping members engaged. In early November JRGC held its own pop-up flower arranging workshop on a balmy Indian summer day, held conveniently outside in Mary's front yard. With tables placed at safe distances, sign-up limited to only 20 club members on a first-come, first-served basis, mandated masks and plenty of sanitizers on hand, each club member in attendance was given access to the same plant material—dried pods, fall blooming flowers and foliage. The resulting 20 arrangements were inspirational works of art. "We are hopeful that our 2021 reality is much different," says Mary, "but for now, it's important that we keep finding ways to connect with our membership."

— Madeline Mayhood



JRGC members Sarah Wiley and Susie Rawles at the club's November flower arranging workshop. Photo by Mary Bacon

The Petersburg Garden Club

PETERSBURG

In lieu of our regular October meeting, which was canceled because of COVID, our creative and innovative club president, Kate Short, organized a wonderful workday at Centre Hill. Old and new members of the Petersburg Garden Club—all avid gardeners—turned out on a sunny fall day with

rakes, clippers, brooms, blowers and plenty of energy. GCV restored the grounds of Centre Hill Mansion (c. 1834) in 1980, with several planting modifications that followed. The maintenance of the grounds has been a major project of the Petersburg club ever since. The museum is located in an historic neighborhood in downtown Petersburg.

Residents and visitors alike enjoy the grounds, with a few locals pitching in to help with weeding from time to time. With plenty of social distancing in place and beautiful weather, it was a perfect day to safely connect with garden club friends and leave Centre Hill in tip-top condition.

—Alice Martin



PGC members at Centre Hill. Photo courtesy of Petersburg Garden Club

GCV DISTRICT 2

2

The Blue Ridge Garden Club

LEXINGTON

The Blue Ridge Garden Club proudly continued its many years of work with the Roots & Shoots program of Waddell Elementary School in Lexington, Virginia. This past year saw a new direction in the program's curriculum. Responding to teachers' requests for integration of Virginia's Standards of Learning protocols, classroom activities were redesigned and an after-school garden club was created. Science, technology, engineering and math principles (STEM) were incorporated into the curricula. Classroom instruction was tailored to new directions provided by teachers from each grade level.

The after-school club met weekly and used planting and arts and crafts activities as media for studying STEM topics. Peas were planted and grown on trellises designed and made from found materials. Local college students assisted with the club and were mentored in community programming. By all accounts,



Roots & Shoots Garden at Waddell Elementary School in Lexington. Photo by Susan Amonette

it was a successful year for the Roots & Shoots program.

These programs are on hiatus until at least the spring of 2021 due to COVID concerns, but are fully expected to resume in the future. The Blue Ridge Garden Club thanks everyone who participated to make these programs a success.

—Catherine Siegel

GCV DISTRICT 3

3

The Hampton Roads, Huntington and Williamsburg Garden Clubs

HAMPTON ROADS

Along the banks of the York River, an estuary where freshwater meets saltwater, lies York River State Park, designated as a Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, an entity established to manage coastal habitats. This significant and beautiful site drew members of the Hampton Roads Garden Club, the Huntington Garden Club and the Williamsburg Garden Club to seek a partnership promoting the Garden Club of Virginia's 2020 Centennial Project and its commitment to Virginia state parks. Receiving three separate grants, the members combined their talents and energy to meet this goal.

Over a three-year span, club members redesigned the landscape around the park's entrance signs to enhance visibility. They designed and refurbished beds along the entrance to the Visitor Center, filling them with deer-resistant plants and grasses, using native plants whenever possible. Members installed hardscape, providing handicap accessibility to the informational signage at the Visitor Center. On other workdays, three rain basins, which channel runoff from the parking lot and the roof of the Visitor Center, were created.



A refurbished bed at York River State Park thanks to a multi-club project. Photo courtesy of Hampton Roads Garden Club

A special project created a Turtle Garden that would not only make the turtles happy, but also be used for educational purposes, as well. Most recently, members planted a Pollinator Butterfly Meadow and, additionally, a Centennial Oak in honor of the Garden Club of Virginia.

The Centennial Project was stated to be "lasting and visible, statewide in its reach, uniting member clubs, and garnering statewide publicity for the GCV." Our clubs are so pleased to contribute to that mission.

—Linda K. Smith (HRGC)

GCV DISTRICT 4

4



Headstones will be restored at the Chatham Cemetery thanks to CGC members in collaboration with other garden clubs. Photo courtesy of Chatham Garden Club

GCV's District 4 clubs devised clever ways to meet and stay connected this fall. From drive-by meetings to gathering outdoors, these women are moving ahead with projects and enjoying each other's gardening and flower arranging talents.

Working with two other local garden clubs, **Chatham Garden Club** is restoring the headstones and grounds in a local cemetery, Chatham Cemetery where Civil War figures and past presidents of their garden club are buried. In the future, they hope to add a walking path there. **Gabriella Garden Club** members post monthly arrangements online for virtual, non-judged flower shows and kicked off the year with a drive-through meeting where members voted, paid dues and received party bags full of lemon-themed treats. **The Garden**

GCV DISTRICT 5

5

Little Garden Club

WINCHESTER

Winchester's Little Garden Club (LGC) was pleased to be selected by the Garden Club of Virginia for the 2020 Bessie Bock Carter Conservation Award. The Little Garden Club's proposal consisted of a Weir Garden on the grounds of the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley (MSV). The garden, which is under construction, will consist of stone weirs that manage storm water. A wildflower garden will also be



Garden at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, Winchester. Photo courtesy of MSV

Study Club and The Martinsville Garden Club, inspired by the Lynchburg area garden clubs, are working together to make Martinsville a designated Bee City. **Roanoke Valley Garden Club** created monthly minicourses, Snips & Tips, where members safely gather in small groups to learn pointers on topics such as composting, planting amaryllis bulbs and growing wildflowers. **Mill Mountain Garden Club** and **Roanoke Valley Garden Club** are working together to designate Roanoke as an official Bee City.

—Katherine Fulghum Knopf

GCV DISTRICT 6



PAGC members Judy Aspinwall, Katie Hand, Theresa Briggs, Mary Ruffin Randolph and Carrie Goodman; plaque honoring Virginia Beach's first responders. Photos courtesy of the Princess Anne Garden Club

The Princess Anne Garden Club

VIRGINIA BEACH

In an effort to do something special to honor our first responders with a lasting memory, the Princess Anne Garden Club decided to have a tree planted in the newly designed garden at the Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad. This all-volunteer force has been serving our neighbors in need since 1952. The rescue squad, located on 17th Street in Virginia Beach, is in the process of designing a butterfly pollinator garden for the community to enjoy. The sweet bay magnolia that our club planted is the perfect addition to this work in progress. In the future, the Princess Anne Garden Club hopes to add additional native plants to this special garden for our residents and dedicated first responders to visit and enjoy.

—Katie Hand

snips

NEWS FROM CLUBS & COMMITTEES

CAPTURING THE MOMENT:

A FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY
AS A DEDICATED GCV PLATFORM

The Garden Club of Virginia Board of Directors extended full standing committee status to Photography this year to encourage increased use of this artform in upholding the GCV mission. Key words in the GCV mission statement are to celebrate, to conserve, to challenge and to restore. Photography plays a role in all aspects of those efforts, whether documenting conservation and restoration efforts, celebrating the beauty of our natural resources, commemorating special achievements in pursuit of our mission or simply challenging our members to capture a moment in the ever-changing cycle of nature.

Our greatest resource in the GCV is its members. The Photography Committee hopes to encourage and advance individual interest and skills through a series of ongoing educational programs and workshops. Because cell phones are a way of life, the committee is focusing its initial efforts on working with cell phone cameras and basic editing programs. In doing so, we hope to raise the bar and challenge the intrepid to continue on towards more advanced learning. For those members already at ease with camera and post-processing techniques, we will be sponsoring workshops to share best practices, to teach more advanced editing programs and to collaborate on field trips to improve photography skills. And to have fun!



An exciting part of our work will be to help GCV clubs begin or expand photography programs designed to challenge their members in ways that showcase not only individual skills, but also that promote the mission of their clubs. When Daffodil Day was canceled in March 2020, the challenge became turning the photography show into a digital presentation. The result was learning that “virtual” is photography’s friend. The committee will be doing more to assist clubs in staging their own virtual show, as well as looking toward having more virtual shows on the district and state level. Physical shows will continue when possible with safety precautions in place, and we will be looking for ways to increase the photography footprint in all future GCV events.

Assisting other GCV committees with their photography needs is also an integral part of the work of the Photography Committee. It is our hope that as the quality of photography overall is raised throughout the GCV, our efforts will result in more member participation and increased understanding and support of the GCV mission.

—**Edie Hessberg, Photography Committee Chairman (2020-2022), Winchester-Clarke Garden Club**

ABOVE: For her photograph of narcissus, Sandy Geiger, The Garden Club of Gloucester, won first place in Class 3 (Creativity Psychedelic Age) and the Novice Award at 2020’s Daffodil Day virtual photography show. *Photo courtesy of Sandy Geiger*

LEFT: Kathy Wirtala’s still life won first place in its class (Class 1, Still Life Dutch Golden Age), as well as the Claire Smithers Mellinger Award for Photography at the 2020 Daffodil Day virtual photography show. Kathy is a member of The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club. *Photo courtesy of Kathy Wirtala*



BUZZING WITH INNOVATION

We feared the worst for the sleeping bees! Having seen our essential pollinators motionless on my flowers, thank goodness for the recent Conservation Forum in which Heidi James explained that bees can often be found simply dozing during the day.

The Artistic Design Committee has not a single snoozer. In areas requiring renovation, we are buzzing with busy, hardworking go-getters tackling every major challenge.

EDUCATION

An avid gardener, my mother inquired why in the world I arrange flowers competitively. My answer was simple: to learn. Taking the plunge into GCV flower shows, flower schools and judging program, we not only garner valuable information but also root within ourselves a reverence for all growing things and harvest a bounty of lifelong friends. After 35 years there is still so much to absorb. Hoping to inspire member participation, our committee has collaborated to offer a series of amazing workshops. Judges will highlight floral design styles featured in Daffodil Day 2021, sharing blue ribbon arrangements and several that need “tweaking,” discussing arranging guidelines and how each would be judged. Consult gcvirginia.org, and also watch for future presentations on innovative containers, floral foam-free mechanics, and current cutting-edge, contemporary styles.

JUDGING

Being true pollinators, our learned judges spread their unique creativity while instilling in others a love and respect for nature’s bounty arranged in engaging and inspiring ways. Changes in GCV flower shows have challenged our committee to infuse increased flexibility and innovation; newly tailored guidelines and requirements address not only COVID safety but also reflect our changing culture. Technology to vastly broaden our field of participation and to increase opportunities, including demonstrating in Zoom workshops, judging club shows and mentoring new arrangers, amplifies our collective benefit. A new online judge’s annual record form reflects this expanded scope. We encourage all students and expert pollinators alike who love to grow and show to join us in our journey.

FLOWER SHOWS

The Artistic Design schedule planned for Daffodil Day will offer both traditional and contemporary classes, including two in botanical arts, one challenge class, an exhibition class in a new category, modern mass, and two promoting environmental stewardship: one floral foam-free and one using flowers favored by pollinators. Since Daffodil Day 2021 has moved to a virtual platform, the show schedule



will provide detailed instructions. *Lilies in Bloom*, sponsored by the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club and currently in the budding stage, will blossom on June 15, 2021, in Fredericksburg.

AWARDS

New awards emerge on the horizon. A Mentor Award will debut at Daffodil Day 2021, encouraging teaching and learning through a powerful partnership between experienced flower arrangers and novices. Awards for botanical arts and environmental stewardship are on our wish list. Following flower shows, Artistic Design Committee members will attend the club meetings of perpetual silver trophy winners in artistic design to explain the award and honor the recipients.

Represented by members across the commonwealth, our Artistic Design stewards forge ahead with enthusiasm, research, comprehensive thought, experience, wisdom, hard work and love of service. Together we pollinate—through demonstration, education and reward—advances in both personal and collective creativity, out-of-the box thinking, and positive action. Not a snoozer to be found!

—**Meredith Lauter, Artistic Design Committee Chairman, The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton**



Floral arrangements by Meredith Lauter combine vegetables, vines, foliage, blooms, feathers, berries and even clusters of ginger root. *Photos by Jill Mountcastle*

PHOTOGRAPHY

ARTISTIC DESIGN FESTIVAL

The late Anne Ruffin of the Garden Club of Norfolk and member of the Garden Club of Virginia's Restoration Committee commented years ago: "We have a lot of money in trees and bricks." Mrs. Ruffin was referring to the long-standing and ongoing efforts to restore and preserve the landscapes of historic properties



Restoration Committee members with Bartlett team members at Christ Church, Lancaster County.

CREATING PARTNERSHIPS FOR TREE CARE

throughout the state. While we may use the expression "strong as an oak," our overstory trees will not remain strong if ignored.

Fortunately for the GCV—and the trees—we have a longtime partner in Bartlett Tree Experts. This family-held business founded in 1907 has been a loyal Historic Garden Week sponsor for many years. Additionally, it has provided educational programs for our Conservation Forum, distributed truckloads of tree seedlings at various HGW events and assisted in studying the major economic impact of Historic Garden Week.

In January 2019, Jean Gilpin, then-president of the GCV, invited Bartlett's Rob Allen to the Restoration Committee's maintenance workshop, a biannual event held for the staff of the 40+ historic properties at which the GCV has ongoing

restoration projects. He was impressed. So impressed, in fact, that Bartlett became a major sponsor of the GCV's Centennial Celebration—and then chose to do even more. Rob Allen proposed a "Day of Service" for up to ten historic properties, suggesting a focus on lesser known (and less funded) outlying sites around the state.

Each Day of Service includes an assessment visit with property staff and the Restoration Committee liaison, a day of tree work by Bartlett's arborists and a three-year plan to address future needs of the tree canopy on each property. Nearby clubs send

representatives to record the work. Nine properties received a Day of Service in 2020 honoring the GCV's Centennial. Despite complications due to the pandemic, all work was completed by May.

The Garden Club of Virginia is most grateful for the expertise and generosity of Bartlett and its arborists. It has been a pleasure to work with Rob Allen and the Bartlett team around the state and to see such tangible improvements to some of Virginia's historic treasures.

—Widget Williams, Restoration Committee, Harborfront Garden Club

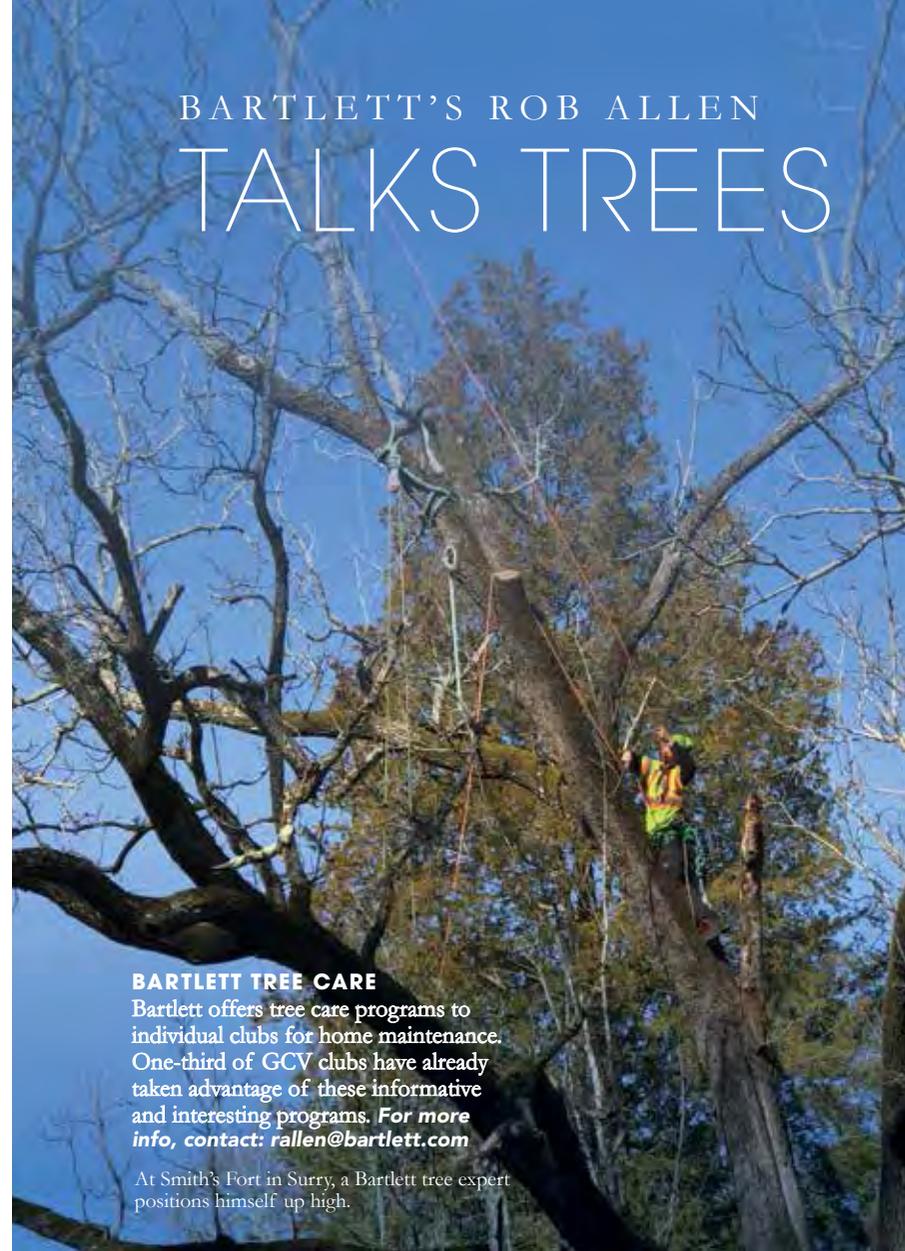


Restoration Committee members and a Bartlett team member survey trees at Fincastle Presbyterian Church.

NINE GCV RESTORATION SITES HAVE BENEFITED FROM BARTLETT'S DAY OF SERVICE.

- They include:**
- Kenmore, *Fredericksburg*
 - Christ Church, *Lancaster County*
 - Fincastle Presbyterian Church, *Fincastle*
 - Historic Portsmouth Courthouse, *Portsmouth*
 - Hollins University, *Roanoke*
 - Smith's Fort, *Surry*
 - Sweet Briar College, *Sweet Briar*
 - Wilton, *Richmond*
 - Belle Grove, *Middletown*

BARTLETT'S ROB ALLEN TALKS TREES



BARTLETT TREE CARE
Bartlett offers tree care programs to individual clubs for home maintenance. One-third of GCV clubs have already taken advantage of these informative and interesting programs. For more info, contact: rallen@bartlett.com

At Smith's Fort in Surry, a Bartlett tree expert positions himself up high.

Widget Williams, Restoration Committee member, spoke with Rob Allen, Bartlett's Division Manager in Virginia, to learn more about the company, its ethos and the vision it shares with the Garden Club of Virginia.

Widget Williams: Tell me more about Bartlett Tree Experts.

Rob Allen: Our 100+-year-old company, founded in Stamford, Connecticut, is headed by Robert Bartlett Jr., a third-generation member of the Bartlett family to lead the company. There are 150 offices throughout the country—from the East Coast to Texas, plus California and Canada. We also have a presence in Ireland and in the UK. Bartlett has been granted a Royal Warrant to provide care for the trees on the Queen's

Royal Estates. The heart and soul of the company is in Charlotte, North Carolina, on a 600-acre arboretum, which is our research and training center. Seven PhDs work there to further the science of tree care, both for the company and industry. This ongoing educational component attracts top-quality employees to Bartlett.

WW: How did the association with the GCV begin? And what do you see as the shared goals of Bartlett and the GCV?

RA: Fifteen years ago, when I ran Bartlett's Fredericksburg office, I met Mary Wynn McDaniel, the Restoration Committee's liaison for Kenmore. Through her I came to appreciate the GCV's

commitment to preservation and restoration of historic properties. Since then we have partnered with the GCV, sponsoring Historic Garden Week, sharing expertise and distributing tree seedlings at Summer Boot Camp for HGW leadership. Our shared goals include creating connections with local arborists, educating club members and the Virginia community on the care of trees, stewardship of historic properties and improving the quality of life through care of the landscape we inhabit.

WW: The Day of Service is such a unique and generous program...

RA: I enjoyed working out the concept for the Day of Service with Jean Gilpin and Lynn McCashin and want to give credit to all those who helped make it happen, especially the liaisons on the Restoration Committee and those who attended the workdays and helped spread the word on our programs and services.

WW: What are some of the challenges you see in your work and the satisfactions you find?

RA: Some of the major challenges I see are getting good information out on proper care of trees and creating awareness of career opportunities in the arborist field. Developing ongoing personal relationships and helping clients meet their goals are some of my biggest satisfactions. Having events like the Day of Service and ones that promote the planting of trees are especially satisfying. To date we have given away 400,000 seedlings.

WW: What motivates you?

RA: To make a difference in people's lives through person-to-person connections and to improve the care of the landscape of Virginia.

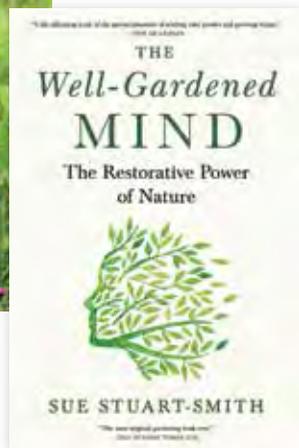
Photos courtesy of the Restoration Committee



RESTORATION



historians, physicians, psychoanalysts and poets she most admires, giving her book a rich, polyphonic texture. In one breath, she compares the philosophy of *viriditas*—the idea



The Well-Gardened Mind: The Restorative Power of Nature

SUE STUART-SMITH
Scribner, 2020. 340 pp.

In her remarkable book, *The Well-Gardened Mind: The Restorative Power of Nature*, Sue Stuart-Smith's views are informed by her background as a seasoned psychiatrist and psychotherapist and by her ardent work in creating the wonderful Barn Garden in Hertfordshire with her husband, the celebrated garden designer Tom Stuart-Smith. That she was also a former English major furthers her book's felicity. She examines her subject—the therapeutic value of gardening—through a variety of lenses: the personal, the historical, the medical, the psychological and the literary. She is an erudite, lyrical, persuasive and exceptionally well-read advocate for the healing potential of nature.

Stuart-Smith argues that, "A garden gives you a protected physical space, which helps increase your sense of mental space, and it gives you quiet, so you can hear your own thoughts ... alongside all the physical activity, I am also gardening my mind." In an unsystematic way, she brings to bear words of other writers,

that the growth power of the earth nourishes, invigorates and heals the human spirit, a concept developed by 12th-century abbess, St. Hildegard von Bingen—to Melanie Klein's work on reparation, whose theory that the psychological process of making mental repairs to a damaged internal world, constantly repeated, is like the work of a gardener, "turning waste into nutritious compost, helping pollinators thrive, or beautifying the earth." A few pages later, Stuart-Smith seamlessly transitions from Sigmund Freud's view of grief to a vignette from Charles Dickens in order to contrast a "healthy" management of negative feelings over a loss with Miss Havisham's unprocessed sadness: In refusing to mourn, in shutting herself inside and away from nature, she is as perverted as her desolate, neglected and grotesque garden.

Despite its ambitious scope and the miscellany of informed voices included, *The Well-Gardened Mind* is a very readable book. Stuart-Smith details many of her visits to sites where gardening is used

in therapeutic situations—in mental hospitals, in prisons, and in shattered communities—and in interviews with patients. In offering a generous supply of personal history and scene-setting detail, the author evokes the joys of gardening. Tending the earth is rewarding because it is generative, creative and part of a cycle external to ourselves. "As we cultivate the earth," she writes, "we cultivate an attitude of care, a caring stance is not something that is actively promoted in contemporary life." This life-affirming and hopeful take on the power of nature is a tonic in these uncertain times. From planting a bulb, "a little time bomb of hope," to watering, an activity that leaves you "feeling refreshed, like the plants themselves," to pruning and weeding, destructive actions in the service of growth, to the final "detonation of a flower in spring," horticulture is therapeutic, consoling and sustaining those who undertake it.

Stuart-Smith argues for the development of green spaces in urban landscapes, for the spread of community gardening schemes and for therapeutic gardening programs in mental health facilities. She deftly observes a correlation between habitat theory with the importance of "regaining a sense of safety" in trauma treatment. The final chapter pleads urgently for attention to the climate crisis. Environmental sustainability, she cautions, is also psychological sustainability. *The Well-Gardened Mind* is a celebration of nature, of gardening, of reading and of the human potential for health and growth. For people who love these things as much as the author does, it is an argument for sitting down with a book and then, for going outside, digging in the earth and paying attention.

—Louise Gilbert Freeman, *Three Chopt Garden Club*

Sue Stuart-Smith. Photo by Harry Stuart-Smith, courtesy of Scribner



THE GCV CENTENNIAL & BETTIE GUTHRIE'S [TIME CAPSULE JOURNEY] CAPTURING A MOMENT IN TIME

While many GCV Centennial Celebration plans reflected on its history and accomplishments, creating a time capsule emerged as an ideal way to provide a picture of the Garden Club of Virginia in its 100th year for future generations. Anne Cross, Centennial Committee chairman, turned to committee member Bettie Guthrie (The Petersburg Garden Club and former GCV historian, 2016-2020) to oversee the project. Bettie recently spoke with *Journal* committee member Deneen Brannock (The Augusta Garden Club) with pride and humor about how the project evolved.

Deneen Brannock: Tell us how you approached the time capsule project.

Bettie Guthrie: Our committee met in 2017 and felt strongly that allowing the clubs to provide direction for the time capsule was paramount, so we sent a questionnaire to all member club presidents and historians for input. Two key directions came from the survey: the capsule should be a furniture-style container inside the Kent-Valentine House (KVH), and we should have a 50-year date for opening the capsule. The committee then established convenient drop-off locations for the benefit of clubs. Some clubs needed a wee nudge, but I'm proud to tell you all 48 member clubs, as well as committees, participated.

DB: Where will the items be safely stored?

BG: Having eliminated the idea of a buried or cornerstone time capsule, the best solution turned out to be a lovely French provincial sideboard, donated by the late Teen Martin (The Garden Club of Gloucester and GCV president 1962-1964). We were careful to use museum-quality containers to ensure preservation of the items—five oblong, acid-free boxes. Four contain items from member clubs, and the fifth box houses those from GCV standing committee the Centennial Committee and miscellaneous items.

DB: What items did clubs include, and how did you go about organizing them for storage?

BG: Oyster shells, an engraved pewter pitcher, a seed packet and books were included. Numerous clubs sent club histories, club cookbooks and Historic Garden Week brochures. When the KVH temporarily closed in the spring due to COVID, I obtained permission to bring everything home to Petersburg to sort and organize the time capsule treasures. Each item is identified on a spreadsheet with each box labeled and keyed to the spreadsheet.

DB: Are there any items that you feel that future members may not understand?

BG: My guess are the DVDs, CDs and who knows if the oysters will survive climate change. The oyster shell just might be a fossil in 2070 . . . something to think about!

DB: What was the most interesting part of the time capsule project process?

BG: Watching the member clubs decide what would best represent them or their community. The results are an amazing and creative collection of histories, stories and tangible items reflecting the Garden Club of Virginia statewide.

DB: What is significant to you about the Centennial Time Capsule?

BG: The time capsule represents our 48 member clubs and their message to members 50 years from now. History defines us, so these messages are important in order for future members to carry on the GCV legacy. I'm proud of the work GCV has accomplished, and I am so grateful to have the opportunity to help preserve this rich history and share it with the 2070 GCV membership.



Bettie Guthrie with the time capsule boxes; at the time capsule at the KVH; and the commemorative plaque noting the time capsule dedication. Photos by Terri Lowman



The Garden Club of Virginia mourns the passing of the following members who died in 2020*:

THE ASHLAND GARDEN CLUB

Elizabeth Carol Wells Stevenson
(Betty Carol)

THE AUGUSTA GARDEN CLUB

Claiborne Dohs Elder
Elizabeth Hatch Pollard (Betsy)

THE BLUE RIDGE GARDEN CLUB

Myra Marshall Brush

THE CHARLOTTESVILLE GARDEN CLUB

Elizabeth Greear Cauthen (Betty)

THE GARDEN CLUB OF THE EASTERN SHORE

Virginia Clay Savage
Mary Randolph Stuart (Randy)

THE GARDEN CLUB OF FAIRFAX

Jacalyn Kirk Anderson
Nancy Lee Jennings

THE FRANKLIN GARDEN CLUB

Constance Vick Marks

THE HAMPTON ROADS GARDEN CLUB

Mary Lou Payne Hatten

HILLSIDE GARDEN CLUB

Sarah Jane Warren Davis
Louise Barnwell Elliott Sackett (Barney)

THE HUNTING CREEK GARDEN CLUB

Anne Rapp Kelly

THE LYNCHBURG GARDEN CLUB

Lucinda Hancock Warren (Cindy)

THE GARDEN CLUB OF THE MIDDLE PENINSULA

Brenda Joyce Williams Knupp

MILL MOUNTAIN GARDEN CLUB

Ruth Ellen Duvall Kuhnel
Emily Abbitt Woodrum

THE GARDEN CLUB OF NORFOLK

Indiana Bain Lindsay Bilisoly
Allene Atkinson Hull
Patricia Patee White

THE GARDEN CLUB OF THE NORTHERN NECK

Carter Filer Lankford

RIVANNA GARDEN CLUB

Jane Walker Kerewich
Carolyn Covert Wilcox

ROANOKE VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Christine Platt Kemper (Tina)

THE SPOTSWOOD GARDEN CLUB

Madeline Harper Preston

THE GARDEN STUDY CLUB

Liliel Turner Doyle

THREE RIVERS GARDEN CLUB

Katherine Frank Miniclier

THE WILLIAMSBURG GARDEN CLUB

Lois Saunier Hornsby
Mildred Barrett West (Millie)
Jean Harrus Cogle
Jean Adams Shivel

*In Memoriam lists the names of Garden Club of Virginia members who have died within the past year (January 1, 2020-December 31, 2020). The list is compiled from names submitted by club presidents. To ensure deceased members are acknowledged in the *Journal*, please forward their names (first, maiden, last) to journal@gcvirginia.org.

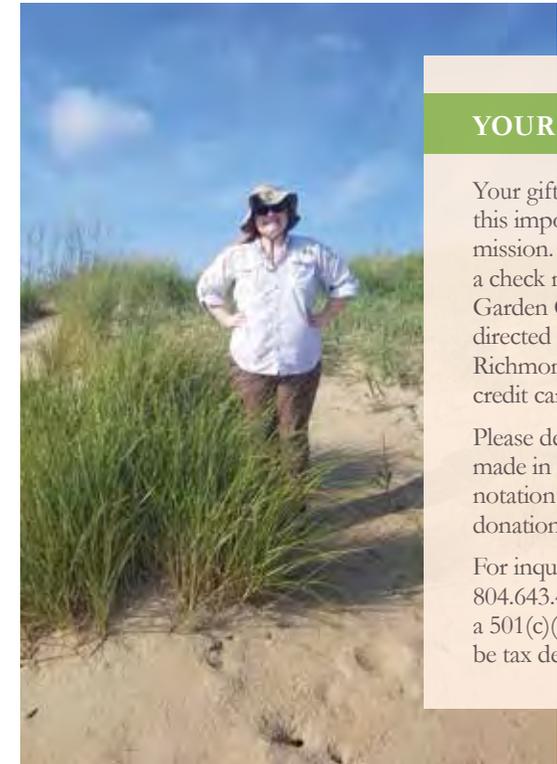
Conservation and Environmental Studies Fellowship

Emily Riffe, a PhD candidate in the Department of Biology at Virginia Commonwealth University, was awarded the GCV's 2020-21 Conservation and Environmental Studies Fellowship. Emily was selected from the highest number of applicants (22) the GCV has received since the fellowship was created in 2015. The award was increased to \$6,000 this year. Emily's proposal, "Native and Invasive Dune Grasses: Importance of Belowground Traits and Biotic Interaction," will have a direct impact on coastal dune restoration. Her year of research will focus on biodiversity of dune plantings for storm protection and dune restoration. The research involves federal biologists at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia Beach and will directly impact restoration projects at Back Bay.

The GCV is proud to sponsor work benefiting conservation and environmental research in Virginia. Our 2019-20 fellow, Heather Kinney, a biology master's student at William & Mary, completed her study titled "Eastern Bluebirds' Nesting Habits and Their Response to Surrounding Noise Pollution." A video about Heather's research can be found on the GCV website under "Conservation."

The Long-Range Planning Committee's proposal to create this fellowship for the study of conservation and environmental issues was initiated in 2015 to commemorate the GCV Centennial. The undergraduate or graduate student chosen must attend a school in Virginia and conduct environmental research which will have an impact on Virginia.

Emily's research project was selected this spring from a diverse range of academic topics which included lady slippers, vultures and shale barrens, as well as studies on frogs,



YOUR GIFTS ARE VITAL

Your gifts are vital to help sustain this important part of the GCV's mission. You may contribute with a check made payable to the Garden Club of Virginia (GCV) and directed to 12 East Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23219 or with your credit card at gcvirginia.org.

Please designate that your gift is made in support of CESF with a notation on the check or via the donation site.

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wetlands, sea level rise and the barrier islands.

Applicants for this GCV fellowship are required to plan and execute an impressive amount of work in coordination with their faculty advisors during the year of research covered by the GCV stipend. Equipment, transportation and summer assistants are among the considerable expenses the fellow must finance. Continued support of these students through the Conservation and Environmental Studies Fellowship strengthens our knowledge and impacts our future.

—Carroll Andrews, The James River Garden Club and Libbey Oliver, The Williamsburg Garden Club, Conservation and Environmental Studies Fellowship Co-Chairmen

All photos courtesy of Emily Riffe





Common Wealth Award Recipients

The GCV's 41st Common Wealth Award winners were announced in October. This highly anticipated annual grant was first presented at the 1979 GCV annual meeting and is designed to promote projects in the interest of conservation, beautification, horticulture, preservation and education. The two-word name—Common Wealth—was chosen to describe the “wealth” that is “common” to all Virginians. The Common Wealth Award Committee selects finalists from nominations submitted; member clubs each cast one vote for the project(s), and the winners are announced at the Board of Governors meeting. This year, due to the pandemic, the meetings were held in each GCV district throughout October and November. “The nominations we received this year were so impressive and spoke keenly to the mission of the GCV and the core tenets of the Common Wealth Award,” says Award Chairman Carol Carter (Albemarle Garden Club). “They each demonstrated the deep civic connections of GCV clubs in their communities. We especially congratulate this year's recipients of this prestigious GCV award.”



ABOVE: The Brock Environmental Center in Virginia Beach.

LEFT: The Brock Environmental Center's green wall will be similar to this one.

Photos courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

FIRST PLACE: LIVING GREEN WALL AT BROCK ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER'S CLASSROOM ANNEX

Submitted by the Virginia Beach Garden Club

The Virginia Beach Garden Club is supporting a “green wall” located in the Virginia Beach Public School's classroom annex affiliated with the Brock Environmental Center. Virginia Beach City Public Schools and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation are partnering on a new Environmental

Studies Program. Virginia Beach high school students will participate in the program, focusing on environmental science, green building practices and sustainable approaches to real-world issues, such as sea level rise and degraded waterways. Construction began on the classroom annex in January 2020 and the “green wall” will be included in the classroom. Green walls include greenery, a growing medium and a water delivery system. An interior living green wall not only provides environmental health benefits associated with the outdoors, but also helps students combat attention fatigue by connecting students to “outdoor nature” within the indoor environment. Additionally, green walls reduce energy costs, cooling the air in the warmer summer months and providing extra insulation during the colder months. The extra layer of air between the plants and the wall absorbs acoustic energy and reduces noise. The green wall is an example of a sustainability practice that can be modeled in future homes and workplaces.

APPLAUSE: AWARDS & ACCOLADES



SECOND PLACE: MILL MOUNTAIN WILDFLOWER GARDEN: THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS AND BEYOND—ENHANCING THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE THROUGH EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE

Submitted by Mill Mountain Garden Club

High atop Mill Mountain, in the middle of Roanoke's most visited urban park and surrounded by ten miles of hiking, biking and walking trails, is the Mill Mountain Wildflower Garden. As the primary caretakers, Mill Mountain Garden Club members tend this beloved, iconic 2.5-acre garden weekly. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the garden, the club is on track for the largest and most ambitious fundraising campaign in the club's history. Important club seed money initiated the campaign; additional funds have been raised from foundations, grants, generous club members, friends, families and creative fundraisers. Building is underway to restore critical features of the garden including the pond, accessible pathways, improved entrances and landscaping with more native plantings. To complete this significant restoration project, the Common Wealth Award will provide funds for enhancing the educational experience of the visitor in



Informative signage will enhance visitor experience at the Mill Mountain Wildflower Garden. Pictured here are Mill Mountain Garden Club members. *Photo courtesy of Mill Mountain Garden Club*

the garden while highlighting the vital mission of conservation. Along the “Discovery Trail” path, four permanent, colorful and informative signs will showcase and identify Virginia native plants, wildflowers, trees, insects and pollinators. Signage will also emphasize the importance of planting natives in the garden and feature other takeaways on the nexus of nature, climate science and health.

The Common Wealth Award Committee looks forward to seeing how these exciting, club-driven community projects progress with the help of this award.

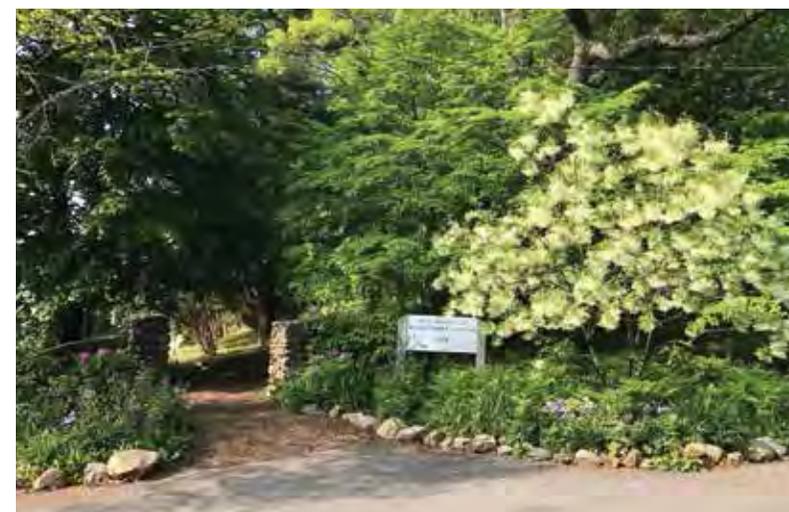
More than \$190,000 in grants have been awarded to worthy club projects in the areas of conservation, beautification, horticulture, preservation and/or education since the award's inception in 1979.

All club finalists are commended for strong applications and very important and valuable community projects this year. Furthermore, all 48 GCV clubs are to be congratulated for ensuring their membership voted and that their votes were counted in this important GCV award.

We encourage all clubs to consider submitting a proposal or resubmitting a proposal if not chosen this year. The application is on the GCV website and the deadline for the 2021 Common Wealth Award submission is March 1, 2021.

Gifts may be made to the Common Wealth Award Fund on the GCV website to help assure a continuation of these supportive grants for extraordinary club projects and partnerships that serve to further the conservation, preservation, and restoration ideals intrinsic to the Garden Club of Virginia.

—Carol Carter, GCV Common Wealth Award Committee Chairman, Albemarle Garden Club



The original entrance to Mill Mountain Wildflower Garden. *Photo courtesy of Mill Mountain Garden Club*

CONSERVATION AWARDS NOMINATIONS DUE MARCH 1

- COMMON WEALTH AWARD
- de LACY GRAY MEMORIAL MEDAL FOR CONSERVATION

Visit gcvirginia.org/main/awards-and-grants for descriptions, guidelines and applications.





Conservation Educator Award

The 2020 Conservation Educator Award recognizes three individuals whose work in an educational environment empowers the ideals of the Garden Club of Virginia “to celebrate the beauty of the land, to conserve the gifts of nature and to challenge future generations to build on this heritage.” Established in 2016, the award honors the recipient’s work to create a learning situation, not necessarily only a “school” environment, which benefits the community. The recipient may be an educator, scout leader, 4-H leader, Master Gardener or an environmental organization. The award is a “recognition award,” which promotes the ideals of conservation through education.

SARAH MCGUIRE NUSS, Education Coordinator of the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, was nominated by the Garden Club of Gloucester, and seconded by the Hampton Roads Garden Club and the Williamsburg Garden Club. The environmental and conservation education programs that Sarah is responsible for have had a major impact on children and educators. Sarah’s personal goals for experiential learning opportunities are inspiring



the next generation through field experiences, teacher training programs and public outreach events at VIMS. She joined the education team in 2005 and established the Discovery Lab program in 2007.



CANDACE LUTZOW-FELLING, Director of Education at Blandy Experimental Farm and State Arboretum of Virginia, was nominated for the Conservation Educator Award by Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club. Her responsibilities include leading professional development programs for pre-K-12 teachers and science communication programs for student and professional scientists. Candace also forms and nurtures partnerships with local schools; state, federal and national agencies; and colleges and universities. Candace blends science research and education experiences for teachers and students.

PHIL SATOLLI, nominated by the Spotswood Garden Club, is a first-grade teacher at Lacey Spring Elementary School in Harrisonburg. A lifelong gardener, Phil has committed to teaching children how food can be grown and the environmentally friendly practices needed for a successful harvest. With the assistance of the school principal, cooking opportunities with the harvested food followed. He formed a

voluntary Student Garden Club for children in grades 2-5 that meets once a week. Phil was instrumental in Lacey Elementary hosting an annual Ag-Day and involving the school in a recycling program. A campus arboretum was next on Phil’s agenda. A grant from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation enabled Lacey Elementary to build a greenhouse. Phil was named 2019 Conservation Teacher of the Year by the Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, as well as Virginia Conservation Teacher of the Year.



Conservation education in Virginia is in good hands with the recipients of this year’s Conservation Educator Award.

—Jane Edwards, GCV Conservation Awards Chairman, The Garden Club of Norfolk

All photos courtesy of individuals featured: Sarah Nuss, Phil Satolli and Candace Lutzow-Felling

Bessie Bocock Carter 2021 Conservation Award Finalists

- Albemarle Garden Club: “Stream Restoration Education at McIntire Botanical Garden”
- Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club: “Roundabout Meadows”
- Lynchburg Garden Club and Hillside Garden Club: “Roadside Biodiversity Native Perennial Beds”

All clubs must cast their vote by **March 15, 2021**. More information is at gcvirginia.org

The Dugdale Award: Christine and Frederick Andreae and Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary

Given annually for outstanding work in conservation to an organization, industry or an individual who is not a Garden Club of Virginia member, this award was first presented in 1974. In 1989, it was named for Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale of the Ashland Garden Club, originator of the GCV Conservation Forum. The 2020 winners are Christine and Frederick Andreae and the Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary.

Nominated by the Garden Club of Warren County, Christine and Frederick Andreae established the nonprofit Scenic 340 Project in 1999 to oppose a VDOT plan to widen Route 340. They convinced the Department of Historic Resources to declare the area from Front Royal to Luray a rural historical district. Scenic 340 Project changed road



Christine and Frederick Andreae with Lorraine Hultquist and Louise LaBarca, members of the Garden Club of Warren County. Photo courtesy of Lisa Schwartz



Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary. Photos courtesy of Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary



building policy in the state by partnering with community members to conserve 2,300 acres of forest and farmland. The Andreaes’ work received the Last Chance Landscape Award from Scenic Virginia in 2007. They formed the Alliance for the Shenandoah in 2016, which works to ensure the rural character, beauty and protection of communities in six area counties.

The Andreaes were recognized as Exemplary Forest Stewards by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and the U.S. Forest Service. Fred serves on the board of the Shenandoah National Park Trust and as Vice President of the Beautification of Front Royal Committee. In 2019, the couple donated funding for the creation of a Wellness and Recreation Trail at the Warren Memorial Hospital. Together they actively manage 800 acres of land, which is protected by conservation easements and more than 2,000 feet of trails alongside a wildlife habitat that includes plantings and native wildflowers.

Located on a 25-acre farm in Front Royal, the Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary is one of only a handful of true “honey-

bee sanctuaries” in the world. Gunther Hauk and Vivian Struve-Hauk founded the sanctuary in 2006, and it is home to more than 30 honeybee hives. The main apiary is located on six acres adjacent to a seven-acre field of perennials and bee forage.

Mill Mountain Garden Club nominated Spikenard, which serves as a “model” sanctuary for teaching, outreach and education for sustainable, biodynamic beekeeping practices. The farm welcomes visitors, educators and beekeepers from all over the world to take classes and experience the property. The mission of education in beekeeping and farming practices is balanced with creating a new understanding and awareness for the vulnerable honeybee.

These deserving winners have rendered outstanding service in conservation and wise development of our natural resources for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

—Jane Edwards, GCV Conservation Awards Chairman, The Garden Club of Norfolk

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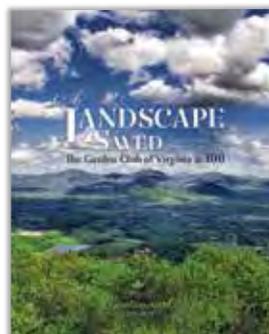
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This limited edition Waterford Crystal keepsake is the perfect way to celebrate and commemorate the GCV Centennial. It also makes a lovely gift. Measures 3.2" x 4" | \$25



CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION CATALOG

Published to accompany *A Landscape Saved: The Garden Club of Virginia at 100* exhibition at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, this book is a succinct history of the Garden Club of Virginia since its founding in 1920. | \$20



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2021 GCV CALENDAR

SAVE THE DATES

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK THE GCV CALENDAR ONLINE FOR CURRENT INFORMATION AND UPDATES.

- March 8-12 | Historic Garden Week Region Meetings
- March 30 | Daffodil Day (virtual)
- April 17-24 | Historic Garden Week
- May 5 | Annual Meeting, Ashland
- May 19-20 | Horticulture Field Day
- June 15 | *Lilies in Bloom*, Fredericksburg
- June 22-23 | Historic Garden Week 2022 Boot Camp, KVH

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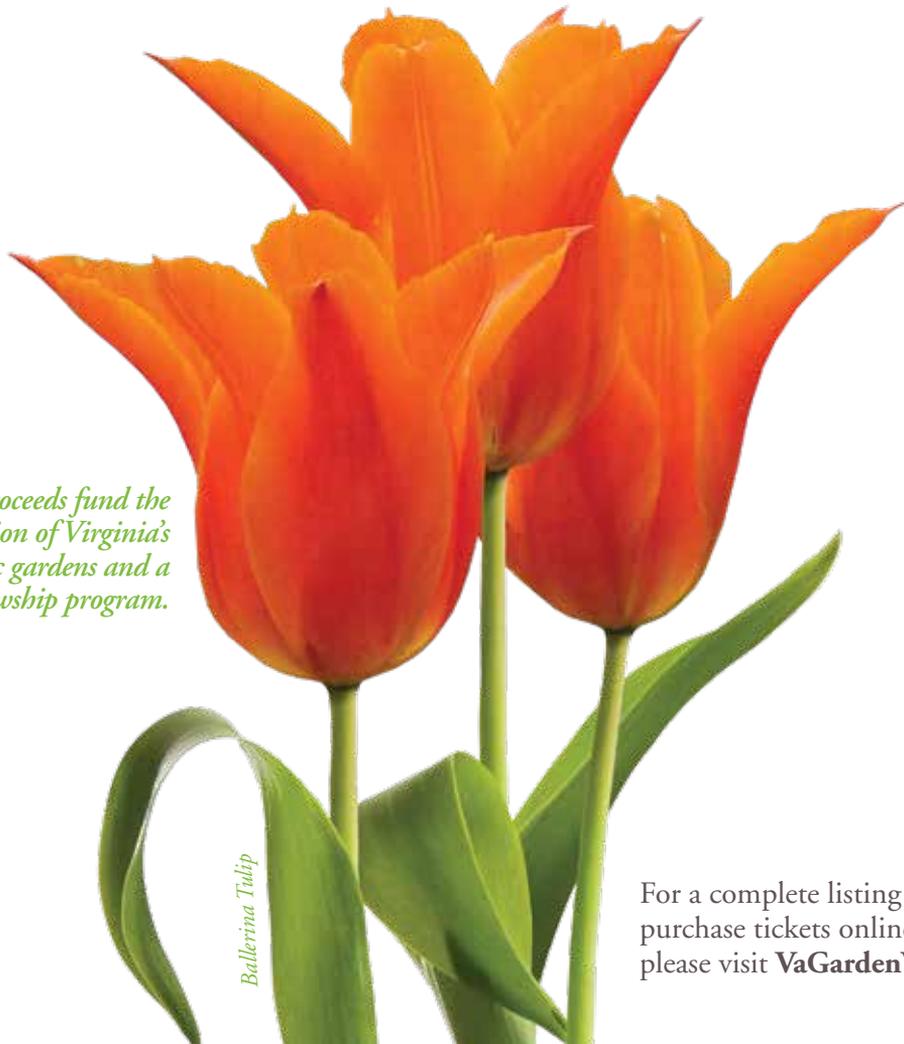


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Ballerina Tulip

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