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O N T H E C O V E R: A R T I S T S P O T L I G H T
ELLEN SINCLAIR

Ellen Sinclair loves driving around where she often finds inspiration for her art. “This painting is one of a series I painted of roads” she explains, referencing the cover of this edition of the Journal. “To experience such beauty in an everyday scene is thrilling,” Ellen continues. “My joy comes in sharing it.”

This nearly native of Virginia Beach (she was born in Richmond) counts herself lucky to have had both her mother, Anne Townsend Overman, and her grandmother, Ellen Townsend Townsend, nurture a love of gardening and floral arranging. She studied art at Hollins, and in France on a year abroad. “To experience such beauty in an everyday scene is thrilling,” Ellen continues. “My joy comes in sharing it.”

Ellen’s own landscape is full of color—“imagine that!” she exclaims. Oranges, yellows and corals are in the front that gets afternoon sun. “Behind our house, it’s sunny all day,” she says, adding that her vegetable garden can be seen from the kitchen window. She also has a cutting garden with purple and violet with touches of pink and soft yellow—iris, clematis, salvias, peonies, roses, catmint, ‘and my favorite GCV 2019 roses—‘Pink Enchantment,’ ‘Duchess de Brabant’ and ‘Winter Sun.’” A shady secret garden is behind her studio. And at the far back of her landscape is a woodland garden—“mostly greens and whites,” she says.

“I encourage viewers to take a moment to see and appreciate the way the light falls on a country road, or the brilliant colors of freshly arranged flowers in a vase, or the aftermath of a delicious meal shared with others,” Ellen says. “I paint what I love with all my heart. My hope is that my paintings will ring true and touch the lives of others in a meaningful way.” —Madeline Mayhood, The James River Garden Club

NEW! GCV NOTECARDS
GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA PRESERVING VIRGINIA’S CULTURAL HERITAGE THROUGH HISTORIC GARDEN RESTORATION

Since 1929, the GCV has preserved and restored more than 50 public historic landscapes and gardens throughout Virginia. This important work is possible due to the efforts of GCV members who produce Historic Garden Week tours in their communities. This list set in a series represents a selection of our projects through photos taken by GCV members and friends. The photos have been digitally converted to a lovely watercolor effect.

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P R E S I D E N T ’ S L E T T E R

REFLECTIONS ON A FULL YEAR

Reflecting on the flurry of fall events, I am filled with deep gratitude for the incredible creativity, planning, and commitment of our Board of Directors, committee chairmen, club members and staff whose hard work and dedication made our recent Garden Club of Virginia initiatives a resounding success.

Our monthly virtual learning series, Cultivating Conversations, responded to the call for new educational opportunities. The initial sessions received rave reviews from attendees, marking a tremendous start to this engaging GCV experience.

History Blooms was a dynamic, three-day program in partnership with the Virginia Museum of History & Culture highlighting the state’s history and horticulture. Twenty-six member clubs crafted exquisite floral designs representing Virginia’s diverse regions, state parks, and GCV restoration sites. The event also drew esteemed experts from across the nation who helped us expand our knowledge of gardening, flowers, history and horticulture, resulting in most enthusiastic responses from GCV members and the public.

Our host for the 104th Annual Board of Governors meeting, The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore, offered a remarkable, two-day experience filled with productive meetings amidst the picturesque “land between two waters.” The quiet countryside setting nestled between ocean and bay provided the perfect backdrop for discussions and lively hospitality.

And the 65th Annual Conservation Forum, themed Eco-Landscaping: Restoring Nature’s Balance, held in Charlottesville, showcased innovative approaches to ecological gardening. Three remarkable speakers shared insights on applying environmentally functional concepts in home gardens, reinforcing our commitment to sustainable practices.

Personally, my travels across the state to visit member clubs have been most inspiring and memorable, and I am truly grateful for your warmth and gracious hospitality. Witnessing the impact of your community programs and projects and experiencing the energy and enthusiasm of our members reaffirms our mission of conservation, beautification, preservation and the relevance of the Garden Club of Virginia in today’s world.

What a special gift to work together to make a lasting impact across our commonwealth while building lifelong friendships and having fun. As we look ahead, our 2024 calendar brims with excitement for upcoming events: Legislative Day, Daffodil Day, Historic Garden Week and Horticulture Field Day. Look for more information on these events and new announcements in the days to come! I send you my very best and hope you will enjoy this special time of year with your loved ones.

Debbie Lewis
GCV President, 2022-2024
inter is here, and the temps have dropped, but this issue of the Journal is all about the Garden Club of Virginia’s hugely successful fall lineup. Autumn was abuzz with GCV events all over the state—from Richmond to the Eastern Shore to Charlottesville and Williamsburg. As Debbie recounted so eloquently, they were well-organized, well-attended and inspiring, so don’t miss our coverage in the pages of this packed winter edition.

You can lean into eco-landscaping with our coverage on November’s Conservation Forum; get the lowdown on the Board of Governors, which met on the Eastern Shore in October, where members of the Garden Club of the Eastern Shore rolled out the red carpet; and take a peek at History Blooms, where the GCV and the Virginia Museum of History & Culture strengthened this important relationship and showcased the state’s history through flowers. Then, Allison Clock, Horticulture Committee Chairman, shares her Horticulture Field Day diary, recounting this two-day deep dive into the culture of Williamsburg’s horticulture. And finally, Fran Carden, the state tour chairman of Historic Garden Week, offers a primer on HGW 2024, confessing that she has a major crush on a certain 18th-century Swedish botanist. Plus, she gives us a glimpse into ‘Nikko Blue,’ HGW’s poster bloom. And definitely don’t miss her quiz. Curl up in front of a roaring fire with some hot cocoa and test your botanical brainpower.

And there’s more to this issue of the Journal. We bring you timely bits and bobs in Fresh Produce, news from clubs in our SNIPS section, and great gardening accessories in time for the New Year. Savor the pages. They’re just for you.

As always, we love hearing from GCV club members, so drop us a line at Journal@GCVirginia.org with your comments and ideas. We’re listening.

With best New Year wishes,
Garden Site Tour: Botanical Garden of the Piedmont

There's a new kid on the block, a new botanical garden, that is. The Botanical Garden of the Piedmont, located in Charlottesville, is just starting to spread its wings. Boston landscape architectural firm Mikyoung Kim Design, along with local firm Waterstreet Studio, were selected to spearhead the master plan for the garden's 8.5 acres along the east side of McIntire Park. The conceptual design makes the most of the site's natural features with a series of stepped gardens and woodland walks. A diverse set of experiences—from meadows, pine groves, a waterfall, and mushroom hunting to ornamental flowers, gardens and woodland walks. An amphitheater and event space provide ample opportunity to hold both public and private, revenue-generating events. Once complete, the garden will highlight the evolving definition of native plant materials while weaving sculptural experiences into this modern-day botanical garden.

An exciting public garden. Tours are limited to 16 people and last approximately 45 minutes. The next tour is at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 6, 2024. The Garden is located at 950 Melbourne Road. Parking is available along Melbourne Road. The site tends to be wet so sturdy, waterproof shoes are recommended. RSVP to rsvp@piedmontgarden.org to reserve your space.

Welcome Wagon

The KVH is happy to share that beginning in early October, Emily Yates joined the team as GCV’s new office and events coordinator. Emily brings nearly a decade of experience in the nonprofit sector, and recently graduated cum laude with a master’s degree in public history. She comes to us from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, where she commanded cannons, taught in the Powder Magazine, and worked to better the foundation’s understanding of minorities in the 18th century. She is best known for her love of women’s history, dogs and Halloween. In her spare time, she volunteers with a WWII living history group and raises money for the Alzheimer’s Association.

Welcome, Emily!  
—Andrea Butler

2024 Conservation & Environmental Studies Fellowship News

New for 2024, two fellowships will be granted—one to a graduate student and one to an undergraduate student. This Fellowship was established in 2014 to support scholars conducting research in areas relating to the conservation of natural resources and/or environmental studies. This Fellowship was established to support scholars conducting research in areas relating to the conservation of natural resources and/or environmental studies.

The de Lacy Gray Conservation Medal was established in 1960 to recognize individual members of the Garden Club of Virginia who have achieved significant accomplishments in horticulture, both personally and in their communities.

The Horticulture Award of Merit was established in 1979 to recognize individuals who have achieved significant accomplishments in horticulture, both personally and in their communities.

Please consider nominating your club’s dedicated and hard-working horticulturists.

Visit GCVirginia.org to learn more.
Bread Pudding
for the Holidays & Beyond

Cooking with Clare

Clare Schapiro, a James River Garden Club member, refuses to call herself a chef, but in most minds she really is. Of the first order. Her food is beyond delicious, and her cookbook is full of satisfying recipes for any time of year. For this issue of the Journal, her amazing bread pudding is perfect for a New Year’s splurge. It relies on ingredients you need to use up—that panettone loaf your husband brought home from the office, some left over eggnog, the jar of plum pudding a neighbor dropped by. And if you’re low on plum pudding, reach for a jar of preserves—whatever strikes your fancy. The result is quick and superb. Here’s her recipe:

HOLIDAY BREAD PUDDING

• 4 cups of eggnog
  spiked if you like it that way
• 4 eggs
• 1 panettone loaf crust
  removed and remaining loaf
  chopped into one-inch cubes
• 1 jar of plum pudding
  about a cup

Optional
• Powdered sugar for dusting
• Heavy cream

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Butter an oval baking dish and fill it with the panettone cubes. Vigorously beat eggnog with eggs. Pour the eggy eggnog over the panettone, squishing the cubes down into the liquid with a fork, so it gets saturated. Place it in the fridge for about an hour. Pour the plum pudding over the eggy panettone and cover with foil. Place the baking dish in a roasting pan, and then pour boiling water into the roasting pan half-way up the sides of the baking dish. Bake it at 375°F for 25 minutes, remove foil and bake for another 30 minutes. Dust with confectioners’ sugar (optional) before serving. Clare says the result is a “sort of rum-raisin thing going on,” especially if you’ve used spiked eggnog. “The bourbon morphs into feeling rum-like by its proximity to the dried fruit from the plum pudding,” she reminisces, adding, “I recommend pouring a little heavy cream on top of each serving and dusting with a little powdered sugar, because, far be it from me to resist any opportunity to gild the lily!”

Clare’s Kitchen is available for purchase on Amazon and at ClaresKitchen.net.

Preparing Trees & Shrubs for Winter

Extreme weather events and changing climate conditions result in chronic stress to woody plants. This summer, we saw the decline and death of even well-established mature trees. Read on for suggestions to promote the health of trees and shrubs and to protect them from temperature extremes.

Apply and maintain a 2- to 4-inch layer of organic mulch at the base of woody plants, extending out to the dripline if possible. The combination of leaves, twigs, bark and wood is similar to the natural mulch found in a forest. This layer of mulch allows water penetration, decreases evaporation and protects roots from extreme temperature changes. Mulch should be left to decompose in place rather than removing and replacing with new mulch each year.

Providing water during drought is very important. Trees and shrubs, especially evergreens, are at a great disadvantage going into the winter months suffering drought stress. Continue irrigation until cold temperatures arrive. Sample your soil for nutrient content and pH levels. Fertilize if your soils are nutrient deficient. Adjusting soil pH may be necessary to improve availability of some nutrients. Multiple treatments might be needed to make adjustment in soil pH. Late fall is the perfect time to assess your needs.

—Bartlett Tree Experts, Bartlett.com
The GCV’s 104th Board of Governors, Hosted by The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

The GCV’s 104th Board of Governor’s Meeting was hosted by The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore on October 17-19, 2023. GCES members provided meeting spaces, meals, and lodging in various locations spanning the two counties of Northampton and Accomack, which constitute the Eastern Shore of Virginia—“the land between two waters.”

—continued on next page
Attendees were transported by bus up and down the peninsula to functions held on many of our creeks—from registration and horticulture exhibits at Oyster Farm Event Center on King’s Creek, first-night dinner at The Eastern Shore Yacht and Country Club on Pungoteague Creek, and on our final evening, the delicious awards banquet at historic Elkington located on a tributary known as The Gulf in Northampton County. Everyone enjoyed taking in the scenic water views along the way and were delighted by the culinary skills of local chef Amy Brandt. Members of the GCV Board of Directors were feted with a luncheon at historic Ker Place in Onancock, a GCV Historic Garden Restoration site, which was beautifully decorated with colorful dahlias. Many of our visitors were able to tour the spectacular gardens and interiors of Eyre Hall, an annual mainstay of Historic Garden Week. The Barrier Island Center, a gem of a museum of local history and culture, was also on the schedule. Guest speakers included noted architectural historian Calder Loth, and Jon Wehner, owner of Chatham Winery in Machipongo. Rumor has it that our local wine shop sold out of his delicious wines shortly after his wonderful presentation to the group! Ellie Gordon, president of the GCES, shared the following highlighted quotes taken from thank-you notes sent by attendees: Members of The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore had so much fun working together to ensure that club presidents from around the state had a good experience and do hope that their guests will return soon and often to the “Land Between Two Waters.”

“Hospitality was the operative theme, and your club members were welcoming and helpful at every turn. Creativity, warmth and generosity were in abundance.”

“Perfection” is the only word that describes the BOG meeting; every detail was thought-out and well-executed.”

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“Your club has such a kind and generous spirit, and I love the sense of pride you all exude for the Eastern Shore.”

—continued from previous page

—by Nancy Lawson Holcomb,
The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

HOSTED BY THE GARDEN CLUB OF THE EASTERN SHORE
The Garden Club of Virginia partnered with the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, Oct. 6-8, for a new event, History Blooms, aimed at telling the living stories of Virginia through flowers, while showcasing the work of the GCV.

Twenty-six member clubs answered the call to design flowers to represent their region, a state park or a GCV restoration site. The beautiful arrangements wowed the event’s nearly 1,700 visitors.

“I was overwhelmed at the beauty and originality that our club members put into the flower arrangements,” said Debbie Lewis, president of the Garden Club of Virginia.

“The descriptions of the arrangements in the exhibit guide, collectively, helped visitors learn about and appreciate the many treasures of Virginia,” she added.

“The feedback from our members was great,” said Cathy Lee, chairman of the GCV’s Artistic Design Committee. “They enjoyed being part of a non-judged show, and clearly their creative juices were flowing,” she added.

Visitors voted for their favorite with ballots, and the winner was The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club. In addition to the floral displays, the weekend included a reception for club members and sponsors, keynote speaker P. Allen Smith, workshops and demonstrations, a luncheon and a dinner with speakers, a pop-up shop from Potomac Floral Wholesale, and a First Fridays event for families.

—Andrea Butler, Executive Director, GCV
Be inspired to meet Mother Nature more than halfway. Apply the principles and practices of eco-landscaping to unlock potential in your garden.

What can I do in my garden?

- Plant ground covers
- Avoid chemicals
- Let clippings fall
- Consider permeable hardscaping
- Use rain barrels
- Start composting
- Buy mulch in bulk
- Share large tools
- Reduce fuel tools
- Plant natives

Speakers included Thomas Ranier, the Arlington-based landscape architect and landscape designer for the U.S. Capitol grounds, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, and the New York Botanical Garden; heirloom orchardist, fruit explorer, horticultural historian and Savanna Institute Agroforestry Specialist Eliza Greenman; and award-winning Pennsylvania-based landscape architect, native plant expert, author, and leader in natural landscape design Larry Weaner. In keeping with GCV’s mission to conserve Virginia’s natural gifts, attendees gained a host of new tips and tricks for instituting eco-friendly practices in their own landscapes. Speakers offered advice on choosing plants for spaces to work with, rather than against, their natural features; developing low-maintenance and long-lived designs; and creating beautiful, functional, and environmentally conscious landscapes. Attendees left with an appreciation for the origin stories of some of our most common plants and enjoyed an incredible selection of eco-friendly products from the Forum’s vendors: Rivermont Refillery, HaaShrooms, Bartlett Tree Experts, and Blue Ridge Conservation.

A special thanks goes out to event sponsor Pinnacle Associates, Ltd., GCV Conservation and Beautification Chairman Sarah Hellewell, our speakers, vendors, hosts, and attendees who traveled from near and far.

— Sarah Blackburn, Communications Director, GCV
with Schumacher fabrics, Benjamin Moore paints, Stark, Peacock Alley, and more combine traditional and modern aesthetics, making her a natural choice for the prestigious position.

Garden and educational horticulture tours on the historic campus of William & Mary were also on the day’s itinerary. At the venerable Wren Building, considered to be the “soul” of the College and constructed in 1695 when Jamestown was still the colony’s capital, Horticulture Field Day participants were welcomed by GCV President Debbie Lewis and Allison Clock, GCV Horticulture Committee Chairman, along with Tony Orband, W&M’s associate director of grounds and gardens. GCV Restoration Committee Chairman and former GCV president Jean Gilpin conveyed the history of the recently dedicated GCV/W&M joint restoration project, the Charles Gillette-designed Reveley Garden. The garden was included in the five walking garden tours led by W&M’s exceptional landscaping staff and volunteers.

John McFarlane, W&M’s recently retired associate director of gardens and grounds, who worked closely with the GCV’s Restoration Committee on the Reveley Garden, was presented with a commemorative certificate of appreciation by Orband and Ben Owen, the college’s greenhouse nursery supervisor. There was much applause from the GCV crowd in appreciation of John’s work that brought the garden to fruition. Williamsburg Garden Club members Ann Gilkis and Libby Oliver, who is also a W&M gardener and grounds volunteer, led tours of the Adams Memorial Garden. Planted with myriad bulbs, woodies, perennials and even tropical and semi-tropical specimens, it was named in memory of Gregory S. Adams, W&M ’81, and dedicated in 1986.

The College takes pride in its extensive planting and maintenance program, as the nation’s second oldest educational institution (Harvard was founded in 1636, beating W&M by 57 years), it has emphasized botany from its earliest days. Educational offerings include specimen plants, annuals, perennials, pruning, natives, and disease prevention.

Nonplussed by the haze, GCV Horticulture Field Day attendees began with an Open House and the opportunity to visit the Nelson-Galt House, Colonial Williamsburg’s oldest non-exhibition home. This circa 1695 home has been reimagined with garden-inspired furnishings and wallcoverings by the organization’s second-only designer-in-residence, Heather Chadduck Hillegas. A Martinsville native, Hillegas is a renowned decorator and textile artist, who was named one of *Veranda*’s Next Legends and is known for imbuing her work with Southern hospitality and style. Her innovative collaborations along with beautifully landscaped gardens. The Lettie Page Evans Wildflower Refuge is a shaded respite garden enjoyed by students and residents alike, and Crim Dell is native plant-centric. The theory is that students exposed to such a fine array of landscaping and plant material are more likely to develop a lifelong appreciation of horticulture and the wonders of nature than those who study in concrete jungles. In fact, students volunteered to plant additional bulbs in the Anderson-Kale Garden, a daffodil garden dedicated in 2022 to honor two longtime W&M employees, Louise Lambert Kale and Mary Delahaye Anderson.

Late in the day the Williamsburg GC hosted a W&M Green & Gold Lemonade Party on the patio of the president’s house, where Ben Owen offered each Hort Field Day participant a potted zinnia grown especially for attendees.

Meet Designer in Residence, Heather Chadduck and take a tour of the Nelson-Galt House at Colonial Williamsburg.

All photos by Susan Lendermon
TIMING IS EVERYTHING

While preparing to welcome GCV members to Williamsburg for Horticulture Field Day, Colonial Williamsburg arborists discovered telltale marks of invasive borers taking up residence in the trunk of Williamsburg’s legendary Compton Oak, a stunning beauty that grows in the Historic Area on Nicholson Street at the edge of Market Square.

The tree is thought to have been planted in the early 1930s around the time of the colonial capital’s restoration. As the story goes, C. Justus Brouwers, the first landscape superintendent for The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, found a Compton seedling on a walk in the Pungo Woods near Virginia Beach. The Compton Oak is a natural hybrid between a live oak (Quercus virginiana) and an overcup oak (Quercus lyrata) and not so easy to replicate without Mother Nature having a hand in the process.

Fast forward nearly a century, and today the Williamsburg Compton Oak is thought to be the largest of its kind to exist in the U.S. It stands some 70 feet tall and nearly 100 feet wide, its branches reaching out like wide, open arms. Its trunk measures 15 feet in diameter.

But the borers—insect larvae which drill into wood—have found the oak particularly vulnerable, attacking it because it’s being oxygen starved, likely caused by compacted soil around its base. The Compton Oak is a place where visitors to CW have congregated by the throngs underneath its shady, welcoming branches in all seasons. Over the years, the soil surrounding it has become like concrete.

Thanks in part to the timing of GCV’s 2023 Horticulture Field Day, CW’s landscaping team spotted the borers, which seriously threatened this state champion. In consultation with experts, the team began a treatment regimen, which includes systemic insecticide injections and a topical spray. They’re also loosening the soil around the tree’s root system which adds oxygen back into the soil, as well as restricting access around its base, giving the soil a chance to breathe.

The Compton Oak is expected to recover.

— Allison Clock, The Hampton Roads Garden Club, GCV Horticulture Chairman

The Compton Oak photo courtesy of Colonial Williamsburg


Warmly welcoming guests has been a mission of Bruton Parish Church since its founding in 1674. Present-day church and gift shop staff, along with GCV Horticulture Committee and Williamsburg GC members, welcomed all inside. Nina Mustard, former GCV president and Linda Montgomery, both WGC members, along with garden club friends, wowed the crowd with a stunning display and samples of their homemade luxury botanical skincare products made especially for the occasion.

The main event on Day 2 featured two Colonial Williamsburg greats as speakers: former Director of Landscaping Laura Viancour and Jack Gary, Director of Archaeology. After their informative and inspiring talks, six groups marched down Duke of Gloucester Street for an unparalleled series of educational programs. Attendees learned about heirloom plants; boxwood blight, including its devastation and possible new treatments; the Compton Oak; Colonial Williamsburg-inspired holiday arrangements; topiary sheering; and more. After a box lunch back at Bruton Parish Church’s Parish Hall, tours resumed at the Custis archaeological site with Jack Gary and his staff. GCV members were pleased to hear that Jack had worked with the GCV at the Poplar Forest restoration site.

A storm rolled in, briefly interrupting the afternoon, but after a few thunder booms and flashes of lightning, the rain diminished, and the sun came back out. It stopped just in time to conclude with the much-anticipated talk in the Church Sanctuary and the last tour—the churchyard restoration site given by renowned deacons of Bruton Parish Church. Educational material was prepared and coordinated by Kate Muller, GCV Restoration Committee liaison and Garden Club of the Northern Neck member, for all to take home. The GCV Restoration project was led by Diane Spence, GCV Horticulture Committee member, former Chairman and Williamsburg GC member.

One visitor commented later that she was sure that after this tour that many attendees would return with their friends and families to visit beautiful and historic Williamsburg and its gardens again.

— Allison Clock, The Hampton Roads Garden Club, GCV Horticulture Chairman

Mark your calendars for June 4 and 5, 2024, for Horticulture Field Day in Leesburg. Watch for details to sign up. It fills up quickly!
I n 1735, he published his first edition of *Systema Naturae*, a small pamphlet explaining his new system of classifying plants. The following year, *Fundamenta Botanica* was released, which described the rules Linnaeus devised for classification. His 1753 *Species Plantarum* marked the initial use of the nomenclature in which each species is identified by a generic Latin name (genus) and a specific name (species).

**THE FATHER OF TAXONOMY**

Linnaeus’ work inspired countless botanists and explorers to travel the world identifying and collecting plants. His works were of great importance to Charles Darwin’s research. Linnaeus’ studies of plant hybridization influenced the experimental tradition that led directly to the pea plant experiments of Austrian botanist Gregor Mendel.

**KNIGHT AND NOBLE-MAN CARL VON LINNÉ**

During his lifetime, Carl Linnaeus completed 18 editions of *Systema Naturae*, nine editions of *Genera Plantarum*, two editions of *Species Plantarum* and a revised edition of *Fundamenta Botanica*, along with over 50 other publications. Many of these works appeared in countless translations and popular adaptations in all major European languages. Recognized for his contributions to science, he was knighted in 1762 when King Adolf Fredrik titled him Carl von Linné, receiving the German noble mark “von” since there was no mark of nobility in the Swedish language. His last name changed to Linné, with an accent on the “e.” Hence, he became Carl von Linné.

Stenbrohult in Småland, a historical province in southern Sweden. In his early years, Linnaeus had a fondness for plants, flowers in particular. They were his elixir, and when he was given a flower when he was especially upset, it immediately calmed him. Father and son spent much time in the garden, reciting botanical names, and as soon as it was practical, his father gave the young Linnaeus his own patch of earth where he could grow plants.

Interestingly, Nils was the first in his ancestry to adopt a permanent surname. Previously, Swedes had used a patronymic naming system (names stemming from the paternal line). Nils adopted the surname Linnaeus, the Latinate name of the linden tree that grew on the family homestead.

**A YOUNG LINNAEUS**

Little Carl’s father, Nils, was an amateur botanist, who taught his five children Latin and encouraged their love of nature. Carl’s brother Samuel wrote a manual on beekeeping. The family lived in the small village of
LINNAEUS-INSPIRED BOTANICAL QUIZ

While plant characteristics are used to name plants, names are given to honor individuals, too. It’s the system of botanical nomenclature devised by the 18th-century Swedish biologist Carl Linnaeus, still in use today.

So grab a pencil and test your botanical acumen. Study the Latin names below. Then study the photos. Match the botanical name to the photos, then to the common names on page 31. No peeking!

___ Jeffersonia dyphilla
___ Franklinia alatamaha
___ Amelanchier bartramiana
___ Cortinarius jonimitchelliae
___ Dudleya hendrixii
___ Japewiella dollypartoniana
___ Gaga monstraparva
___ Rebutia einsteinii
___ Nepenthes attenboroughii
___ Linnaeosicyos amara

SPREADING LINNAEUS LOVE

Hydrangea macrophylla (water, big leaf) ‘Nikko Blue’ is the selected flower for the Garden Club of Virginia’s Historic Garden Week 2024. Dozens of spectacular gardens are open across the Commonwealth each year, and many visitors inquire about botanical names of plants featured in these special HGW gardens.

For HGW 2024, spread some “Linnaeus Love” and have your garden club members label plants with their botanical names or station your most knowledgeable horticultural hosts in the gardens. Tell them Linnaeus made you do it!

— Fran Carden, HGW Chairman, Albemarle Garden Club

More on ‘Nikko Blue’

Each year Historic Garden Week celebrates a particular flower featured in its marketing materials. Selecting Hydrangea macrophylla ‘Nikko Blue’ was an easy choice. “We photographed the guidebook cover property when the hydrangeas were at their peak,” says HGW Chairman Fran Carden, “so it was an obvious winner to grace the 2024 Historic Garden Week poster and guidebook.

Hydrangeas mainly flower in shades of blue, pink, purple and white, and they are a plant everyone loves because they are showy and easy to grow. ‘Nikko Blue’ is definitely a favorite. “It’s one of the best shrubs to add color, texture and interest to your garden, and it produces gorgeous blooms to arrange in your home,” she continues.

“There are many types of hydrangea: paniculata, macrophylla, arborescens, quercifolia, and petiolaris, which require different types of pruning or none at all,” notes Fran. “Before you prune, determine the type of hydrangea you have and prune accordingly as some bloom on new wood, old wood or both.”

It’s true, the chemistry of a garden’s soil determines the color of a hydrangea. ‘Nikko Blue’ prefers acidic soil. If the soil is more neutral, the color of the blooms will be pinker. “If you want blue hydrangeas, sprinkle a cup of aluminum sulfate around the plant,” Fran instructs. “Here in Virginia, most people do this task in March, April or May.”

ANTEROS ARE ON PAGE 31
Blue Ridge Garden Club
LEXINGTON

The Blue Ridge Garden Club was honored at the October 7 picnic hosted by Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1499. The club has been caring for the Veterans Memorial Garden on Main Street in Lexington since 2003. Our local veterans showed their appreciation by inviting Blue Ridge Garden Club members to their fall picnic. It was our honor to attend and meet the Rockbridge County veterans.

The Veterans Memorial Garden (right)
Photos courtesy of BR Garden Club

Committee that organized the outing with her partner in crime, Anne Blackwell Thompson. “Agnes is crazy creative, and she was so patient with us newbies,” continues Catherine. “She uses a wire wrapping technique and a straw wreath form, and once we got the hang of it, it went smoothly. It was amazing how different everyone’s wreath was!” Vicki Levering, program chairman for The Garden Club of the Northern Neck, also organized a club wreath-making trip to Agnes’s Farm in November. “Agnes wowed our club at our September meeting as our guest speaker, so we wanted to experience wreath making on our own at her farm,” says Vicki. “It was such a great experience. Agnes is so talented and lovely. Plus, her rescue and farm animals are great company too!”

VAWreathMaker.com
—Madeline Mayhood
**GARDENING GOODS GALORE**

**NO KINK GARDEN HOSE**

For any garden aficionado, Terrain’s shopping mecca will have you swooning, and if you actually make the pilgrimage to any of their stores (three are in Pennsylvania), you may never come home. But never fear—their online site is nearly as exciting as a visit. These USA-made hoses are remarkably lightweight and resistant to kinks, cracks and leaks. Plus, they’re slim and durable and perfectly sized for patio gardens. Available in three colors—coral, light green and gray—each hose is made from toxin-free polyurethane, and they’re lead-, BPA- and phthalate-free and come with rust-proof fittings, so they’re safe for people and pets to drink right from the spout. In 50- and 100-foot lengths. From $65. ShopTerrain.com

**GARDEN TRUG**

Thomas Smith is a bit of a hero to gardeners worldwide. The inventor of the Royal Sussex Garden Trug in the 1820s, his trug-making techniques date back to Anglo-Saxon times. Today Royal Sussex Trugs is still housed in Smith’s original workshop in Herstmonceux, in the south-central part of England. Owner Robin Tuppen still employs traditional techniques to make his trugs, using sustainable sweet chestnut, cricket bat willow and Finnish and European birch which he and his team cleave, shave and steam before each trug gets assembled. Garden trugs are not only perfect for garden chores, but they also make fetching centerpieces and magazine or mail caddies. From $214 and available for additional shipping charges to the U.S. RoyalSussexTrugs.com

**TRIBAL JOURNAL**

Who doesn’t love a handsome journal in which to record thoughts, make lists, and plot garden plans? This one, handmade in Tennessee, features loosely woven, uncombed organic cotton fibers, and, with an antique brass snap closure, it also integrates a securely riveted pen loop. The addition of a matching leather swatch riveted to the front cover makes it perfect for personalizing. With 208 pages of deckled-edge paper, 5.75” x 8.5” x 1.5”, $70. RogueJournals.com

**BEE ORB**

Complement your bright buffet of cosmos, alium, and lantana for your local bees with this glass orb, perfect for those busy little pollinators who also need clean drinking water. Its textured surface is designed to catch and hold H2O from your garden hose—just the right amount for thirsty bees to sip. And the shallow mini drinks these bee balls serve up won’t run the risk of drowning your guests. Each is 6” in diameter and comes in blue, yellow or orange. $55. UncommonGoods.com

**FARMERS SLEEVES**

For plant lovers and those with a passion for biodiversity, spread the “Plant Native” mantra among family and friends and throughout your community. This pollinator-friendly message is on a comfy tee-shirt in six colors and a multitude of sizes. Available for $28 from Dandelion Bridge on Etsy. Etsy.com

**PLANT NATIVE T-SHIRT**

Just in time for the New Year, peruse our gardening goods to get your growing season off to a good start.

**LINNAEUS-INSPIRED BOTANICAL QUIZ ANSWER KEY**

1. Thomas Jefferson: common name: twinleaf
2. Benjamin Franklin: common name: Franklin tree
3. John Bartram: Carl Linnaeus called him the “greatest natural botanist in the world;” common name: North American serviceberry
4. Joni Mitchell: Canadian singer-songwriter; mushroom
5. Jimi Hendrix: musician; succulent
6. Dolly Parton: musician; lichen
7. Lady Gaga: musician, actress; one of 19 fern species meaning “little monsters,” a name Gaga lovingly calls her fans.
8. Dr. Albert Einstein: world-renowned scientist; a cactus
9. David Attenborough: naturalist; a tropical pitcher plant

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