OAK SPRING
THE LEGACY OF BUNNY MELLON’S GARDEN

PAULA PRYKE
BRITISH FLORIST AND AUTHOR

KITCHEN DESIGN TRENDS

SAVING OUR ECOSYSTEM
ONE PLANT AT A TIME

HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK — THE MAGAZINE
FALL/WINTER 2020 | VOLUME 1
BULB PLANTING TIPS FROM GLOUCESTER

Family-run business dates to 1900

By Becky Heath and Denise Hutchins of Brent & Becky’s Bulbs

When the colors in your yard start to change, it’s like a traffic signal letting you know it’s time to get started on the fall garden. Plant in an area you see so often you can enjoy your efforts — along the sidewalk, next to your front or back door, the view out your kitchen window or around a deck or patio.

Bulbs planted now will bloom in the spring. Some will emerge before the rest of your garden even begins to wake from winter’s slumber. For fun, select a mix of bulbs, some that flower in early spring like Crocus tommasinianus ‘Ruby Giant’, with others that bloom a bit later, like Eremurus ‘Bubble Gum’. Growing bulbs with staggered bloom times means you’ll have splashes of color for longer.

Most spring flowering bulbs should be planted at a depth three times the bulb’s circumference with the pointed side up. The exception is tulips, which should be planted farther below the surface, at four times the bulb’s height. Planting deeper also makes it more difficult for voles to eat them because most of the vole’s normal activity is in soil three to four inches deep. These “underground bulb monsters” have to work really hard to get to the depth of eight or 10 inches. At Brent & Becky’s Bulbs our soil is sandy; we plant our tulip bulbs at 8-10 inches.

If you grow your bulbs in containers, consider the “lasagna layering” method. Placing different varieties of bulbs in this way ensures your pots are brimming with blooms for longer. Place the latest-blooming variety in the bottom layer and the earliest blooming type on top. If your soil is rich enough, it’s possible to use this method in your garden as well. Dig a hole 10 inches deep, drop in one tulip bulb, add a bit of soil on top and follow with a daffodil bulb, add more soil, then a crocus bulb. There will be three bulbs per hole. Other combinations of bulbs, depending on suggested planting depth, work well using this technique too.

Plant fall bulbs after the first frost but before the soil freezes. Depending on the severity of the approaching winter, you might be able to plant until early January. Most bulbs love cold weather, and if planted too soon in soil that has been warmed by Virginia’s hot, humid summers, they will rot while waiting for the soil to be cooled by autumn’s chilly nights. Another useful tip: bulbs look best when grown in groups, so plant five to 10 in a spot rather than dotted by themselves, where they will look skimpy and lonely.

Some bulbs are pest-resistant. Others might as well be squirrel candy. When planting tulips, which must be particularly delicious to them, consider creating a barrier. After planting, place chicken wire down and then cover with mulch. Garden supply catalogs sell wire cages designed to be filled with bulbs and soil, which is another option. Growing bulbs, like daffodils and alliums that are toxic or don’t taste good to animals, amongst other bulbs, should help to deter wildlife from gnawing on the rest of your plants. Fall is such a beautiful time of year to be outside, and what could be a better symbol of hope than a bulb?

December is also a great time to plant some spring flowers, like Crocus and daffodils. Spring flowers are very attractive to bees and butterflies and are very colorful. They are also easy to grow and care for. Be sure to water your plants well after planting and keep them well-mulched. This will help them establish and grow quickly.

THE TULIP

Tulips are one of the most popular spring flowers. They come in a wide range of colors and are easy to grow. They prefer full sun and well-drained soil. Plant bulbs 3-4 inches deep and 3-4 inches apart. Water regularly and fertilize after the flowers have appeared. Once the flowers have faded, cut the stems back to the ground to allow the bulbs to rest and store energy for the next year.

THE BULB PLANTING TIPS

1. Choose the right place: Make sure your chosen location receives at least six hours of direct sunlight per day. If your garden gets part shade, consider planting shade-tolerant varieties such as tulips and crocuses.

2. Prepare the soil: Dig the soil down to a depth of at least 6-8 inches and remove any weeds or stones. Add compost or other organic matter to improve soil structure and fertility.

3. Space the bulbs: Plant bulbs 3-4 inches apart. This will ensure good air circulation and promote healthy growth.

4. Water consistently: Water newly planted bulbs every day for the first week, then every other day until they have established roots.

5. Mulch: Apply a 2-3 inch layer of mulch over the bulbs after watering to help retain moisture, suppress weeds, and moderate soil temperature.

6. Deadhead: Remove spent flowers to prevent seed production and encourage more blooms. This also helps to reduce the risk of disease and insect damage.

7. Store properly: After the grass has died down, lift and store the bulbs in a cool, dry place until it is time to plant them again in the fall.

By Missy Buckingham, President of the Garden Club of Virginia

Gardens are symbols of hope and renewal. They express creativity and provide an opportunity for reflection. During these trying times, many of us are enjoying more time spent in our own gardens. With precautions in place, visiting someone else’s garden is also a safe place to be.

Expect nearly 200 gardens to be open during Historic Garden Week 2021.

This magazine includes five suggested itineraries by region to make planning your trip easier. Use our website, VAGardenWeek.org, to learn more about each tour, stay updated on touring logistics and protocols and to purchase tickets available in mid-January.

The Garden Club of Virginia, which produces Historic Garden Week, is celebrating its Centennial this year. Having this milestone for our organization take place in these uncertain times has positioned us to focus and prepare for the challenges of the future. Over the last eight months, we’ve channeled our energies to seek new ways to continue to make our work both meaningful and lasting, and to ensure a safe and enjoyable touring experience for volunteers, homeowners and you, our visitors in the new year.

There is a fundamental hopefulness in planting a seed or a bulb. Communing with nature offers beauty, optimism and solace. Access to open spaces is not only essential to our well-being, but a healthy antidote to our current reality.

The metaphors are apt. Gardening is grounding, but it’s also about having a hand in reshaping our environment, and thus, our future. We hope Historic Garden Week — The Magazine has inspired you, and we look forward to seeing you in April.

By Becky Heath and Denise Hutchins of Brent & Becky’s Bulbs

“Live and work on our 28-acre farm and gardens in Gloucester, Virginia, which has been called the ‘Daffodil Capital of America.’ The property includes over eight acres of educational, Chesapeake Bay friendly gardens, which is open to the public.” — Becky Heath

brentandbeckysbulbs.com
BY KAREN CAUTHEN ELLSWORTH, Historic Garden Week State Director

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

They are already implementing a systematic plan for all 30 tours in order to ensure the physical safety of the nearly 3,500 Garden Club of Virginia (GCV) members that make this annual event possible, as well as you, the public, by following local, state and federal guidelines. The leadership of the GCV understands the popularity of Historic Garden Week with its members and its fans and is well aware that changes will be necessary to ensure a positive experience for everyone.

Two important dates shared with tour teams at their initial training, which took place at the end of June, are helping guide decision-making.

The first involves tour LOGISTICS that directly impact what is included in the spring Guidebook, which will be published in mid-March.

Several decisions affecting the upcoming tours have already been made.

• Tickets for all 30 tours will be available online only, and available in mid-January on Historic Garden Week’s website, VAGardenWeek.org.
• To ensure adequate social distancing, tickets will sell out at the capacity each tour team determines is best for their particular tour. Some tours will implement timed tickets, others will sell a morning and an afternoon ticket to help control crowds and ensure social distancing.
• Driving directions will not be included in the spring Guidebook. They will be available online at VAGardenWeek.org on each tour’s individual webpage. Many tours, especially those in rural areas, will provide a map that can be picked up at the Tour Headquarters on tour day.
• Any additional LOGISTICAL aspects of Historic Garden Week that might need to be adjusted to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone involved will be communicated no later than December 15.
• Please check our website and follow us on social media. Facebook: Historic Garden Week in Virginia and Instagram: @historicgardenweek

The second date involves 2021 touring PROTOCOLS. For example, will guests and hostesses be required to wear masks while touring April 17-24? The Historic Garden Week State Committee will share applicable information with the 2021 tour teams, private property owners, ticket buyers and other important stakeholders no later than February 24, 2021.

That information will be communicated on our website and through social media, as well as directly to people who buy tickets through our ticketing system.

We hope that candid conversations, a plan that is thorough and methodical, and timely communication with all stakeholders eases any worries around the upcoming Historic Garden Week tours. If you have any questions or ideas, please email info@VAGardenWeek.org.

Thank you for your continued support of “America’s Largest Open House.”
“When life gives you lemons, make lemonade!”
Are you inspired by the words of others, as I often am? I am a collector of “sayings.” These are inspirational words that either speak to me in a moment or might inspire me later. I’ve even got a spiral notebook into which I’ve cut and pasted some and jotted others down. An oldie but goodie is the lemons to lemonade one. As we worked through the disappointment of having to cancel Historic Garden Week 2020, we reminded each other of that one often. Let me tell you, we drank a LOT of lemonade!

The late Audrey Hepburn once said, “Opportunities don’t often come along. So, when they do, you have to grab them.” This has become our new way of thinking as we plan for Historic Garden Week 2021. We are very excited about this “opportunity,” that you are holding in your hands. Historic Garden Week – The Magazine is the result of the desire to acknowledge our loyal sponsors and advertisers and to inform you, our loyal visitors, that “the show WILL go on,” albeit differently.

“Life is like photography. You need the negatives to develop.” While the author of this saying is unknown, the words are very appropriate for those of us who work to make Historic Garden Week in Virginia happen. Creating HGW 2021 within CDC, national and state guidelines pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging. The “normal” is now considered “negative.” But like film going through a chemical bath to become beautiful pictures, Historic Garden Week 2021 is going through its own transformative process to become a different, but still wonderful, experience for those who travel through our beautiful commonwealth.

We look forward to welcoming you to Historic Garden Week 2021. Members of GCV, our “Gracious Commonwealth Volunteers,” cannot wait to greet you in some of the most spectacular gardens and spaces in Virginia. And, while you might have to bring your own lemonade, you will be able to see the results of our gathering for opportunities and letting those negatives develop into memorable photographs.

“A garden is a friend you can visit anytime.” Come visit your Historic Garden Week friends April 17-24, 2021. We can’t wait to see you!

Tricia Garner, Chair, Historic Garden Week Committee
GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

Historic Garden Week opens the garden gate to the very best of Virginia. It is a highly anticipated event that shows off the creativity of Garden Club of Virginia members who make the magic happen. Right now, as air temperatures are dropping but the soil is still warm and perfect for planting, nearly 200 private home-owners are busy in their gardens. Our volunteers are also focused on preparations for your visit.

To commemorate the Garden Club of Virginia’s Centennial in 2020, we updated our first economic impact study of Historic Garden Week, the nation’s oldest house and garden tour. In just the last 50 years, we have reliable data indicating that the cumulative impact is an impressive $518 million. A popular statewide event, it is also the largest ongoing volunteer effort in Virginia that promotes so many of our communities, both large and small.

Historic Garden Week would not be possible without the efforts of 3,500 Garden Club of Virginia members in 48 clubs across the state, working together. Thank you for your interest and support, and to the annual efforts of these dedicated volunteers.

Lynn McCashin, Executive Director
GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

Photo of Lynn McCashin courtesy of Jay Paul
Take in the grandeur of our splendid Commonwealth.

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE
OR CALL (804) 343-7539
ONE-YEAR ONLY $36!
TWO-YEARS $64!

VirginiaLiving.com
A CONVERSATION WITH PAULA PRYKE

As one of the most celebrated floral designers in the world, Paula Pryke embodies what so many of us in the GCV love: flowers. And in these challenging times—of isolation, quarantines and social distancing—the power of the flower is even more profound. Flowers can’t help but bring smiles and joy, even in the midst of a pandemic.

Madeline Mayhood: You were a history teacher, and you’re married to the architect Peter Romaniuk. How did you come to have such a successful career in flowers?

Paula Pryke: I studied history and drama and, when I met my husband, I was working in a secondary school in East London. I think he gave me the confidence to try something new. I studied at the Constance Spry Flower School and worked in a West End flower shop. Eventually I married my first shop in Islington, and we lived above it. At that time teachers earned about £50 a day, and we both naively thought that we could easily earn that out of a flower shop!

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

MM: Is there a “Paula Pryke” style and has it changed or evolved over the years?

PP: My style has adapted to the trends and changes of the fashion and advertising industry. At heart it has always been natural and simple and colorful. But the flowers I designed for my first book look very current now. What goes around comes around again, and now I am pretty much back doing what I did at the beginning.

MM: What do you consider your most significant accomplishment/honor?

PP: At one level it is being able to pick a career with flowers and then make it work for 32 years. To do something you love and to be able to make a business out of it is an amazing and joyous accomplishment. Never more so than during this time.

A CONVERSATION WITH PAULA PRYKE

1. Check the condition of the flowers you’re purchasing. They may be on the wane, so beware. And arrange them as soon as possible. Inspect garden flowers in a similar fashion.

2. Cut the stems at an oblique angle with a sharp knife, scissors or clippers to achieve maximum surface area. Avoid pushing or cutting stems vertically, which destroys valuable cell structure, encourages bacteria and obstructs water absorption. Remove any foliage that will sit under the water line, any leaves that are bruised or past its prime or that doesn’t enhance the flower.

3. Clean buckets with disinfectant or bleach. Rinse well and then rinse again. Then add lukewarm water mixed with flower food per accompanying instructions. Lukewarm water provides more oxygen to the flowers and is better for their longevity.

4. Until you’re ready to arrange, store the flowers in well-ventilated area, preferably at around 45°F. Also keep an eye on the water—a flower will drink 1/3 of its water in the first 12 hours. Make sure not to store them near fruits or vegetables.

5. Before arranging, remove any damaged leaves or flowers. Snap ends for a clean, fresh cut.

PAULA PRYKE’S TOP FIVE TIPS FOR FLOWER ARRANGING

FOR FLOWER ARRANGING

PAULA PRYKE’S TOP FIVE TIPS FOR FLOWER ARRANGING

REPRINTED FROM THE GCV JOURNAL FALL 2020

Paula was set to be one of the featured presenters at the Garden Club of Virginia’s Founders Day; unfortunately Covid had other plans. But the GCV is nimble and quickly pivoted. Plans are underway for the Centennial Series, which will extend this important milestone into 2021. Stay tuned for details on Paula’s rescheduled appearance.

In the meantime, Madeline Mayhood, Editor of the GCV Journal recently spoke to this living legend who, over the course of three decades, has built a veritable empire that includes a massive contract flower business, an events division, and a floral and lifestyle consultancy. At one point her signature retail shops were strategically located throughout the greater London area.

She’s a sought-after speaker, an OBE (Order of the British Empire) award winner and, in her spare time, she’s managed to write 18 books, all on floral art. Read on to learn about Paula’s early days, her style and her inspirations.

Madeline Mayhood: You were a history teacher, and you’re married to the architect Peter Romaniuk. How did you come to have such a successful career in flowers?

Paula Pryke: I studied history and drama and, when I met my husband, I was working in a secondary school in East London. I think he gave me the confidence to try something new. I studied at the Constance Spry Flower School and worked in a West End flower shop. Eventually I married my first shop in Islington, and we lived above it. At that time teachers earned about £50 a day, and we both naively thought that we could easily earn that out of a flower shop!

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

MM: Is there a “Paula Pryke” style and has it changed or evolved over the years?

PP: My style has adapted to the trends and changes of the fashion and advertising industry. At heart it has always been natural and simple and colorful. But the flowers I designed for my first book look very current now. What goes around comes around again, and now I am pretty much back doing what I did at the beginning.

MM: What do you consider your most significant accomplishment/honor?

PP: At one level it is being able to pick a career with flowers and then make it work for 32 years. To do something you love and to be able to make a business out of it is an amazing and joyous accomplishment. Never more so than during this time.

A CONVERSATION WITH PAULA PRYKE

1. Check the condition of the flowers you’re purchasing. They may be on the wane, so beware. And arrange them as soon as possible. Inspect garden flowers in a similar fashion.

2. Cut the stems at an oblique angle with a sharp knife, scissors or clippers to achieve maximum surface area. Avoid pushing or cutting stems vertically, which destroys valuable cell structure, encourages bacteria and obstructs water absorption. Remove any foliage that will sit under the water line, any leaves that are bruised or past its prime or that doesn’t enhance the flower.

3. Clean buckets with disinfectant or bleach. Rinse well and then rinse again. Then add lukewarm water mixed with flower food per accompanying instructions. Lukewarm water provides more oxygen to the flowers and is better for their longevity.

4. Until you’re ready to arrange, store the flowers in well-ventilated area, preferably at around 45°F. Also keep an eye on the water—a flower will drink 1/3 of its water in the first 12 hours. Make sure not to store them near fruits or vegetables.

5. Before arranging, remove any damaged leaves or flowers. Snap ends for a clean, fresh cut.

PAULA PRYKE’S TOP FIVE TIPS FOR FLOWER ARRANGING

FOR FLOWER ARRANGING

PAULA PRYKE’S TOP FIVE TIPS FOR FLOWER ARRANGING

REPRINTED FROM THE GCV JOURNAL FALL 2020

Paula was set to be one of the featured presenters at the Garden Club of Virginia’s Founders Day; unfortunately Covid had other plans. But the GCV is nimble and quickly pivoted. Plans are underway for the Centennial Series, which will extend this important milestone into 2021. Stay tuned for details on Paula’s rescheduled appearance.

In the meantime, Madeline Mayhood, Editor of the GCV Journal recently spoke to this living legend who, over the course of three decades, has built a veritable empire that includes a massive contract flower business, an events division, and a floral and lifestyle consultancy. At one point her signature retail shops were strategically located throughout the greater London area.

She’s a sought-after speaker, an OBE (Order of the British Empire) award winner and, in her spare time, she’s managed to write 18 books, all on floral art. Read on to learn about Paula’s early days, her style and her inspirations.

Madeline Mayhood: You were a history teacher, and you’re married to the architect Peter Romaniuk. How did you come to have such a successful career in flowers?

Paula Pryke: I studied history and drama and, when I met my husband, I was working in a secondary school in East London. I think he gave me the confidence to try something new. I studied at the Constance Spry Flower School and worked in a West End flower shop. Eventually I married my first shop in Islington, and we lived above it. At that time teachers earned about £50 a day, and we both naively thought that we could easily earn that out of a flower shop!

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

MM: Is there a “Paula Pryke” style and has it changed or evolved over the years?

PP: My style has adapted to the trends and changes of the fashion and advertising industry. At heart it has always been natural and simple and colorful. But the flowers I designed for my first book look very current now. What goes around comes around again, and now I am pretty much back doing what I did at the beginning.

MM: What do you consider your most significant accomplishment/honor?

PP: At one level it is being able to pick a career with flowers and then make it work for 32 years. To do something you love and to be able to make a business out of it is an amazing and joyous accomplishment. Never more so than during this time.
NATURALLY ARRANGING WITH PAULA PRYKE: A Demonstration

Pictured here is Paula’s arrangement of cappuccino roses, pink garden roses, dahlias, strawflowers, Queen Anne’s lace, achillea and clamatis seed heads, foliage includes jasmine, crabbapples, sloe berries (blackthorn) and English oak with acorns.

**MATERIALS:**
- Chicken wire
- Vase
- Clippers, sharpened
- Flowers and foliage, your preference

**MECHANICS**

- Before making any natural arrangement, I work out the mechanics first.
- I use two-inch chicken wire molded and shaped inside the vase, and then I gather as many different types of seasonal foliage with a goal of creating a natural effect.

**TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT**

**ADD FOLIAGE**

- My rule is to use a minimum of three types of foliage, but the more diversity the better. It’s best to have some with an upright habit and some trailing. I don’t use variegated foliage very often as it dilutes color.
- I first add foliage to cover the mechanics and outline the general shape. Foliage also provides structure, which I can use to position my flowers.

**ADD FLOWERS**

- Next I add flowers. I usually add one variety at a time at different angles and depths within the arrangement.
- I also avoid white and cream in a bold arrangement as it neutralizes the color effect and draws your eye, almost creating a distraction. Color is very important to me, but I also pick flowers and foliage for texture—the clematis and echinacea seed heads have been chosen for that.

**EXTRAS**

- Bamboo skewers (for skewering foliage very often as it dilutes color.
- Water tubes
- Chicken wire
- Wires (variety of gauges)
- Zip ties
- Flower food
- Watering cans

**NATURALLY ARRANGING WITH PAULA PRYKE:**

**MECHANICS**

- I use chicken wire and shaped inside the vase, and then I gather as many different types of seasonal foliage with a goal of creating a natural effect.

**TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT**

**ADD FOLIAGE**

- My rule is to use a minimum of three types of foliage, but the more diversity the better. It’s best to have some with an upright habit and some trailing. I don’t use variegated foliage very often as it dilutes color.
- I first add foliage to cover the mechanics and outline the general shape. Foliage also provides structure, which I can use to position my flowers.

**ADD FLOWERS**

- Next I add flowers. I usually add one variety at a time at different angles and depths within the arrangement.
- I also avoid white and cream in a bold arrangement as it neutralizes the color effect and draws your eye, almost creating a distraction. Color is very important to me, but I also pick flowers and foliage for texture—the clematis and echinacea seed heads have been chosen for that.

**EXTRAS**

- Bamboo skewers (for skewering foliage very often as it dilutes color.
- Water tubes
- Chicken wire
- Wires (variety of gauges)
- Zip ties
- Flower food
- Watering cans

**GARDEN FLOWERS**

- Roses • Seabrooks • Cosmos
- Zinnias • Sweet Peas • Hollyhocks
- Chrysanthemums • Dahlia
- Hydrangeas • Lilacs

**FOLIAGE**

- Pussy willow • Snowball viburnum
- Cotinus • Rose hips • Snowberry
- Hypericum • Oak • Beech

All photos courtesy of Paula Pryke
A GREENER VISION

A lot has changed in the past 100 years, but the work of the Garden Club of Virginia has not.

BY JEANETTE CADWALLENDER, THE RAPPAHANNOCK VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

The women of the Garden Club of Virginia have always had their own way of getting things done. Be it wielding axes against unsightly billboards or making tree tags to properly name (and save) every tree on Richmond’s Capitol Square, the results are the same — a greener, more beautiful Virginia for all to enjoy. This year marks the 100th anniversary of this female-led organization.

The Garden Club of Virginia members know their watershed address, carry reusable shopping bags, eschew plastics, refill water bottles and celebrate compost. They promote the natural world. Their work funds restorations that expand the interpretations of Virginia’s historic properties. Today’s GCV members are amused by the lingering perception of ladies in their best day dresses with hats and gloves holding meetings over afternoon tea. Garden gloves and sun hats are more like it.

Local clubs, of which there are 48 across the state, model their programs on the themes emphasized by the Garden Club of Virginia (GCV), but celebrate their autonomy. Just as the statewide non-profit promotes environmentalism, horticulture, flower arranging and civic beautification, so does each local club. Together, these clubs represent nearly 3,500 volunteers and civic leaders in communities both large and small.

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 Garden Club of Virginia members understand for centuries, they put their signature on the topography. They developed an agricultural economy that molded the future of the state. As the colonists extended their conquest from the tidewater to the piedmont and beyond, they made adaptations for their needs and what the land required of them. Tobacco production, while the most valuable economic driver, took a toll on the soil in 17th century Virginia. By the 18th century, agriculture had expanded, and the economy rose to depend on iron exportation, coal and flour, moved by the rivers and then, in the 19th century, the railroad. Automobiles allowed for increased transportation and mobility in the 20th century. Goods and people could be moved more quickly. This modern change brought with it significant consequences — both positive and negative.

The women of the Garden Club of Virginia noticed how many new roads altered the landscape with signs and billboards. Legendary stories from the mid-1930s tell of GCV members using axes to remove billboards and covering advertisements that had been painted on rocks.

To preserve the natural beauty of the state, they drew upon tourism. To this day the revenue from tourism generated by the GCV’s most well-known public program, Historic Garden Week, is vital to our state’s economy. An economic impact study (Chmura Economics and Analytics 2019) credits this popular annual event with $518 million in economic impact to the state since 1969, and $12.5 million each year. The first Historic Garden Week was held in 1929 and drew visitors from all over the country. The scale of this signature event is unprecedented. This spring it will include eight days of continuous touring in 30 different communities featuring nearly 140 private properties. For the garden lover it has few comparisons; for the state, this lifeline funds the ongoing restoration and preservation of Virginia’s historic public gardens and landscapes, and a research fellowship program for landscape architects.

The variety of Historic Garden Week restoration projects include the gardens at the homes of four United States Presidents, grounds of historic churchyards, projects at the Executive Mansion, courthouse landscapes, the grounds of a public high school, university and college campuses, a mill and significant public, historic (and hence the event’s name) gardens from the Eastern Shore to the Blue Ridge.

In light of modern interpretations, recent restoration projects such as the...
Today, communities across the state benefit from having a GCV member club in their cities and towns.

Clubs compete for generous grants to support local projects with the Common Wealth and Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Awards. Projects that benefit conservation, beautification, horticulture, preservation or education are considered for the Common Wealth Award. Trees have been planted, educational projects launched, and civic landscapes and gardens planned and installed. Successful projects include:

**COMMON WEALTH AWARD WINNERS**

- **2020** Living Green Wall at the Brooklawn Environmental Center, The Virginia Beach Garden Club
- **2020** Enhancing the Visitor Center Through Educational Signage, Hillside Garden Club
- **2019** Peter Paul Development Center and Playground Enhancement, The Byrdwood Garden Club
- **2018** 1st Place: Urban Garden invites Youth to “Dream a Different Future” The Elizabeth River Garden Club
- **2018** 2nd Place: Project Dogwood - A Million Year Journey The Augusta Garden Club
- **2017** 1st Place: The Healing Grove at Boulder Crest Retreat Faussier and Lourdes Garden Club
- **2017** 2nd Place: The Lee Park Wildflower and Bird Sanctuary The Potomac Garden Club
- **2016** The Academy Center of the Arts Tree Garden Military Garden Club
- **2015** Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention Center The Chantilly and Rockbridge Garden Club
- **2014** 1st Place: The Ashland Trail Station The Richmond Garden Club
- **2013** 2nd Place: Canal Walk in Great Shiplock Park The Boisseau, Jungar, Three Chopt and Tuckahoe Garden Club
- **2012** 1st Place: Colonial Manor Garden Beautification The Henrico Garden Club
- **2012** 2nd Place: First Landing State Park The Princess Anne Garden Club
- **2012** The Miller-Claytor House Garden The Claytor Garden Club
- **2011** Hattie Fife Reserve Garden
- **2011** Butterfly and Synchrony Garden at St. Mary’s Home Hammondsville and Philpott Garden Club
- **2009** Anne Spencer Garden Whitehall Garden Club
- **2008** A Fort Called Christanna and its Indian Trading Post The Brunswick Garden Club
- **2007** Camp Still Meadows Hillside Garden Club
- **2006** 1st Place: Bandy Field Nature Park The Bowerwood Garden Club and The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Washington
- **2005** 3rd Place: The Chamberlain Park The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore
- **2004** 2nd Place: Bandy Field Nature Park The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore
- **2003** 1st Place: Virginia Newport News Garden The Garden Club of Norfolk
- **2002** 1st Place: The Chamberlain Park The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore
- **2001** Virginia Newport News Garden The Garden Club of Norfolk
- **2000** The Chamberlain Park The Farmville Garden Club and Washington Park Recreation Albemarle Garden Club
- **1999** Vietnam Winner for Williamson’s Children The Williamson Garden Club
- **1999** The Fauquier Outdoor Lab The Warrenton Garden Club
- **1998** Plants and Flowers for the Virginia Museum of Transportation Roanoke Valley Garden Club
- **1998** A Legacy of Wildflowers The Palisades Garden Club
- **1997** Recreation Center The Franklin Garden Club and
- **1997** Landscape at the Ivy Creek Natural Area Reserve Garden Club
- **1996** 1st Place: Bandy Field Nature Park The Bowerwood Garden Club and The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Washington
- **1995** 3rd Place: The Chamberlain Park The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore
- **1994** Memorial Hospital Roof Garden The Garden Club of Fairfield
- **1994** 1st Place: Bandy Field Nature Park The Bowerwood Garden Club and The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Washington
- **1993** Landscaping at the Entrance to the C&O Canal Washington County
- **1992** Landscaping the deWitt Cottage Garden The Princess Anne Garden Club
- **1991** Wildflowers at the Hermitage Foundation The Garden Club of Fairfield
- **1991** The Hurricane Rose Garden The Garden Club of Norfolk
- **1991** Wildflowers at the Hermitage Foundation The Garden Club of Fairfield
- **1990** Miller School Arboretum The Garden Club of Gloucester
- **1989** Scholarship to Port Isobel Island The Prince George Garden Club
- **1988** The Mill Mountain Wildflower Garden The Mill Mountain Garden Club
- **1987** Landscaping the University of Virginia Fraternity Grounds The Culpeper Garden Club
- **1986** The Virginia Museum of Natural History Garden The Culpeper Garden Club
- **1985** Creation of the American Garden Commission The Prince George Garden Club
- **1984** Landscaping the Eastern Shore Public Library The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore
- **1983** “Welcome to Virginia” planting areas Tidewater Garden Club
- **1982** Landscaping of the Glengariff Community Center & Park The Loudoun Garden Club
- **1981** Education Youth for Environmental Service The Prince George Garden Club
- **1980** Landscaping the Entrance to the C&D Waking Trail The Black Ridge Garden Club

“Unless we... have some reason for existence other than just pleasurable, [we will] die a natural death. It is to us that all eyes are turning for not only support, but leadership... [as] the American people [are] turning their desires toward greater beauty of environment.”

VIOLET NILES WALKER, THIRD GCV PRESIDENT 1924-26

Continued from page 15.

Valentine — Jackson Memorial Garden at the Executive Mansion and the Mulberry Row Kitchen Road restoration at Monticello have attempted to complete the story of all those who lived at these important sites. The preservation focus has also extended beyond the state borders. Proceeds from Historic Garden Week tours have been shared with Charleston, SC, and New Orleans, LA, after Hurricanes Hugo and Katrina. Monetary aid was sent to England and France during WWII.

A green arrow sign has been consistently used to guide visitors to Historic Garden Week sites. GCV members have likewise embraced a green vision, one of conservation and beautification. To the organization’s founders in 1920, the view of the landscape was, and remains, extensive. It is an understanding that passionately embraces the natural world and works to preserve clean air and clean water.

The GCV has lobbied to preserve scenic areas of the state. The early efforts with various conservation partners, led to land being set aside for National and State Parks, to the preservation of the Goshen Pass in Rockbridge County and passage of the Ball Hill which protects native plants.

Today the club monitors environmental threats attributed to climate change, advocates for the continuation of the moratorium on uranium mining and focuses on responsible land use planning.

Photos on this spread courtesy of Roger Foley, Donna Moulton, Catherine Tubber; Richard A. Koht, Warren Faught and Amanda Jolly.
GCV Restoration Projects

Adam Thoroughgood House, Virginia Beach
Bacon’s Castle, Surry
Bellevue, Middleburg
Belmont, Fredericksburg
Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg
Burwell-Morgan Mill, Midlothian
Centra Historical Park, Petersburg
Christ Church-Lancaster, Irvington
Danville Museum of Fine Arts & History, Danville
Executive Mansion Capitol Square, Richmond
Fitzwalter-Presbytery Church, Fincastle
Grace House Garden, Richmond
Grave Springs Gardens, Alexandria
Gunston Hall, Mason Neck
Historic Henry County Courthouse, Martinsville
Portsmouth Arts & Cultural Center, Portsmouth
Historic Smithfield, Smithfield
Historic St. Luke’s Church, Smithfield
Hollins University, Roanoke
John Handley High School, Winchester
Kenmore, Fredericksburg
Kent Manor House, Richmond
Kearney Hall, Chesapeake
Lee Hall, Newport News
Mary Washington House, Fredericksburg
Mary Washington Monument, Fredericksburg
Monticello, Charlottesville
Montpelier, Montpelier Station
Moses Myers House, Norfolk
Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon
Oaklands, Leesburg
Poindexter Museum, Richmond
Point of Honor, Lynchburg
Pocahontas State Park, Richmond
Preservation Plantation, Clarksville
Scott’s Neck, Beavertown
Smith’s Fort Plantation, Surry
St. John’s Mews, Richmond
State Arboretum of Virginia, Blandy
Experimental Farm, Boyce
Stratford Hall, Stratford
Sweet Briar College, Amherst
University of Virginia, Charlottesville
Washington and Lee University, Lexington
William & Mary Roeheyl Garden, Williamsburg
Wilton, Richmond
Woodlawn, Alexandria
Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library, Staunton
Yorktown, Yorktown
Yarding House, Jamestown

*No Longer Under Contract
**In Progress
Make Northern Virginia your home base during a week of touring.

OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA
Overlooking the Potomac River with views of our nation’s capital, Old Town Alexandria radiates charm while safeguarding its rich historic roots. Established in 1749, Alexandria was a major seaport prior to the Revolutionary War, occupied by Union troops during the Civil War, and a torpedo production site during World War II. In 1946, Alexandria was the third city in the country to establish a historic district to preserve its architectural heritage. This easy walking tour includes private gardens nestled along the tree-lined streets of the Historic District, as well as the sanctuary at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. Wander through narrow alleys and enchanting walled gardens.

GREEN SPRINGS GARDEN IN ALEXANDRIA
On Sunday and Monday explore additional sites in the area that have been Garden Club of Virginia (GCV) projects funded by Historic Garden Week tour proceeds over the last 88 years. Virginia’s only Beatrix Farrand garden, Green Springs, is located in Alexandria on property originally farmed by freeholder John Moss in 1784. Over 150 years later, young power couple Michael and Belinda Straight bought the house and 33 acres, and engaged Farrand to design a simple garden room behind the house: a spacious lawn enclosed by a boxwood crescent with a stone retaining wall. The GCV restored the stone wall, rejuvenated the boxwoods, and redesigned a more recently installed perennial bed to reflect Farrand’s signature plant choices. In 1970, the Straights deeded their house and nearly half of their land to the Fairfax County Park Authority, making this year the garden’s 50th anniversary as a public space.

STATE ARBORETUM IN BOYCE
About 76 miles north in Boyce is the State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy Plantation. Left in a bequest to the University of Virginia in 1926, Blandy was originally part of a larger historic antebellum estate named the Tuleyeres. The arboretum is nestled on 172 acres within this property and is anchored by a large brick structure built in 1825. The east wing, also known as “The Quarters,” housed the Tuley family for a short time while the manor home was being constructed and later served as the living quarters for the enslaved people. Expanded in 1945, this structure was subsequently used to house faculty and to provide laboratory space for the University of Virginia.

Numerous trails meander through the property which contain 5,000 different varieties of trees and shrubs. Highlights
include a gingko grove that includes 300 trees, a Cedar of Lebanon alien; an herbaceous garden, a native plant trail, as well as the American Boxwood Society’s Memorial Garden, home to 152 varieties of boxwood. A GC Garden restoration site, Dogwood Lane and its original stone walls were rebuilt in 2004 along a road that once led from the manor house to the farm using proceeds from Historic Garden Week.

SKY MEADOWS STATE PARK
Sky Meadows State Park was the recipient of three grants made possible through a Centennial project with Virginia State Parks celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Garden Club of Virginia this past May. The grants helped complete Phase III of a trail system providing over 22 miles of sustainable trails with an overlapping program of intermodal access for all ages and abilities. This beautiful public land was formed when Paul Mellon donated 1,152 acres of land in 1975. Another 248 acres, containing the Appalachian Trail, was added in 1987, and in 1991 Mr. Mellon gifted an additional 462 acres. With scenic views, woodlands and the rolling pastures of a historic farm, the park is a highlight of the Crooked Run Valley.

MCLEAN
On Tuesday wander the grounds of a spectacular gated estate known as Ballantyne Farm, which sits on six plus acres of rolling farmland in the heart of McLean. Named for John Roll McLean, owner and publisher of the Washington Post during the early 1900s, McLean is known for its luxury homes, high-end shopping and is home to diplomats, business owners and government officials. This driving and walking tour showcases the extensive gardens and landscaped grounds of the estate, including the Colonial revival manor house built in 1925. A restored farmhouse, entertaining areas, swimming pool, a screened tennis court and a tree house with a playground. Perennial beds, a kitchen garden and hundreds of bulbs surround a bath house, pool pavilion with fireplace and gazebo and a koi pond. Flower arranging demonstrations and garden talks will take place throughout the day. A magnificent white oak tree, estimated to be 250 to 300 years old, overhangs the home’s front entrance.

Another elegant estate offers a verdant acre of gardens framed by boxwood. The step-down terrace overlooking the carriage house and pergola is surrounded by flowering trees and fountains. In addition, explore 95 acres of ornamental display gardens, the Korean Bell Garden and unique native plant collections at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in nearby Vienna.

WARRENTON
On Wednesday and Thursday, enjoy wooded hills and elegant estates in Warrenton, a 35-mile drive from McLean, and a two-day tour. The gateway to Virginia’s Piedmont, Warrenton offers bucolic horse country and a vibrant Old Town with shopping, dining and galleries. Visit sites located in the rolling acres of the Warrenton Hunt, including a property named in 1991 as one of the two most beautiful homes in America by the American and French Society of Architects. Explore gardens tucked away behind bustling streets in the Old Town area, including a native plant garden designed for an urban setting.

MIDDLEBURG
Stay in Virginia’s Hunt Country on Friday and Saturday for Middleburg’s two-day tour, only 21 miles from Warrenton. Featured private properties are all on Historic Garden Week for the first time. A particularly outstanding outdoor space includes formal gardens replete with English and American boxwood, towering holly trees, sculpture and perennial gardens, and a spectacular center allee of peonies. A redbud arch leads to a heated pool and stone patio adjoining the pool house. A recently installed reflecting pool and fountain designed by renowned landscape designer Harry Stankle adds to the manorial elegance. A special ticket allows access to the Oak Spring property, once the home of Paul and ‘Bunny’ Mellon. Visitors will be delighted by the diversity of the grand estates and landscapes on both touring options in the Middleburg area.

CLARKE COUNTY
Take a step back in time on the final day of Historic Garden Week in Clarke County, nestled in the Shenandoah Valley and just 70 miles from the nation’s capital. The picturesque area consists mostly of horse and agricultural farms with roots back to the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Many of the farms are in conservation easement, preserving the county’s rural character beloved by residents and visitors. Featured private properties date from the 18th through the 20th centuries. Highlights include numerous formal gardens, a Japanese garden, a restored brick stable (one of the few left standing after the Civil War), and Ballamere, a private cemetery.

Visitors will especially enjoy access to an architecturally stunning orangery and a glass conservancy.

Other tours are available. More info can be found at HistoricGardenWeek.com.

DISCOVER
Your State Arboretum

“A garden for all seasons”

State Arboretum of Virginia
At the University of Virginia’s Historic BLAIR experimental farm
430 Blandy Farm Ln - Boyce VA 22620
blandy.vargarden.uva – 540-937-1795
Rt. 50 in Clarke County, Virginia

The Fox & Pheasant
Antiques Décor Interiors

114 East Main Street
Doyce, Virginia
Thursday & Friday, 10:5 – Sunday 12-5

SPECIAL THANKS TO 2020 MEDIA SPONSORS & HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK PARTNERS:
Barrett Tree Experts, McEnearney Associates, Old Street Magazine, TCV Trust & Wealth Management, Virginia Living magazine & Virginia Public Media

NORTH

The Garden Club of Virginia is truly grateful for the steadfast commitment from our partners through their support of Historic Garden Week 2020, despite its cancellation. Special thanks to local 2020 House Tour sponsors and the Guidebook advertisers, listed here alphabetically and by the North region.

American Horticultural Society, Old Town Alexandria
Anne Jerome Cobb, Old Town Alexandria
Atlantic Union Bank, Middleburg
Bank of Clarke County, Clarke County
Charles R. Hooft, Inc., Realtors, Old Town Alexandria
Elizabeth Locke Jewels, Clarke County
George Washington’s Mount Vernon, Old Town Alexandria
George Mason’s Gunston Hall, Fairfax
Kimberly’s, Clarke County
Lucy Rham, Old Town Alexandria
Manning Mills, Inc., Middleburg
McEnearney Associates, Old Town Alexandria
Merrifield Garden Center, Fairfax
Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, Clarke County
Nancy Perkins – Sethaby’s Realty, Old Town Alexandria
Pearl Erber RE/MAX Excutece, Fairfax
State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy, Clarke County
The Country Club of Fairfax, Fairfax
The Mather, Fairfax
Shenandoah Valley Westminster-Canterbury, Clarke County

2020 HONOR ROLL SPONSORS & GUIDEBOOK ADVERTISERS

SPECIAL THANKS TO 2020 MEDIA SPONSORS & HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK PARTNERS:

Fairfax
Fairfax
Fairfax

The Country Club of Fairfax, Fairfax
The Mather, Fairfax
Shenandoah Valley Westminster-Canterbury, Clarke County

Virginia Public Media
ROSES
FOR FIRST TIME GROWERS

BY PATSY SMITH,
WINCHESTER-CLARKE GARDEN CLUB

Although the idea of growing roses might seem daunting, caring for roses is easier than you think. With the proper conditions and simple maintenance, roses will reward you with blooms five to six months out of the year. Shrub roses and floribundas are no more difficult to care for than other flowering shrubs. You still have time to add new roses to your landscape because winter is the best time to plant bare-root roses; while they are dormant.

Planting now ensures they are established before the brutal heat of summer begins. If you prefer starting with potted plants, roses are normally available at garden centers in early spring.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS:

Sunlight
Most roses require a minimum of six hours of direct sunlight per day, but if you have partial shade many old garden roses may still thrive and would be an excellent choice.

Soil
Need balanced soil with a pH of 6.0-6.5. To test the balance of acidity to alkalinity, use a pH meter, an inexpensive tool available at home improvement centers or on the internet.

Water
Roses hate living in a swimming pool. Good drainage is key. Test your hole by digging 18” wide and 18” deep, fill the hole with water and wait 30 minutes. If the water has completely drained away, you have sufficient drainage.

Fertilizer
They are constant feeders. Use a time release or organic fertilizer that breaks down slowly. Don’t fertilize new roses with anything else until after the first bloom cycle.

CARTE...RECOMMENDED FOR
GARDENERS JUST GETTING
STARTED:

‘Carefree Beauty’ is a reliable pink shrub that is a repeat-bloomer.

‘Iceberg’ is a vigorous white floribunda, a type of rose that blooms profusely and comes in a variety of colors.

‘Julia Child’ is a golden butter colored repeat bloomer.

‘Don Juan’ is a deep-red climber with large, perfumy flowers that are excellent cut flowers.

‘Peace’ is a well-known light yellow hybrid tea, slightly flushed at the petal edges with darker pink.

‘Queen Elizabeth’ is a stately pink grandiflora and one of the most widely grown roses in the world.

‘Knock Out’ roses are disease resistant shrubs that come in red, pink, yellow or white and repeat bloom from spring through early fall. There are compact varieties and even a coral pink version. They are especially easy to care for and offer an especially long show of blooms from spring to frost.

ROSES
FOR FIRST TIME GROWERS

BY PATSY SMITH,
WINCHESTER-CLARKE GARDEN CLUB

Although the idea of growing roses might seem daunting, caring for roses is easier than you think. With the proper conditions and simple maintenance, roses will reward you with blooms five to six months out of the year. Shrub roses and floribundas are no more difficult to care for than other flowering shrubs. You still have time to add new roses to your landscape because winter is the best time to plant bare-root roses; while they are dormant.

Planting now ensures they are established before the brutal heat of summer begins. If you prefer starting with potted plants, roses are normally available at garden centers in early spring.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS:

Sunlight
Most roses require a minimum of six hours of direct sunlight per day, but if you have partial shade many old garden roses may still thrive and would be an excellent choice.

Soil
Need balanced soil with a pH of 6.0-6.5. To test the balance of acidity to alkalinity, use a pH meter, an inexpensive tool available at home improvement centers or on the internet.

Water
Roses hate living in a swimming pool. Good drainage is key. Test your hole by digging 18” wide and 18” deep, fill the hole with water and wait 30 minutes. If the water has completely drained away, you have sufficient drainage.

Fertilizer
They are constant feeders. Use a time release or organic fertilizer that breaks down slowly. Don’t fertilize new roses with anything else until after the first bloom cycle.

HOME OF American Rights
HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Explore Gunston Hall’s newly restored Riverside Garden.

SPRING 2021

HOME OF American Rights
HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Explore Gunston Hall’s newly restored Riverside Garden.

SPRING 2021

GEORGE MASON’S
GUNSTON HALL

WWW.GUNSTONHALL.ORG

10709 GUNSTON ROAD | MASON NECK, VA 22079

This spring, each tour will offer a limited amount of tickets, and some of our larger tours will offer timed tickets. Tickets will only be available online at VAGardenWeek.org. Please check our website in mid-January for tickets and for updated information regarding touring logistics and protocols.

NORTH REGION | features
A Crown Jewel

Elizabeth Locke—loves her gardens and has a soft spot for dahlias.

No wonder, these exuberant late-season stunners are known for their vibrant colors and grow fast, yet unlike her unique jewelry designs created over a luminous 32-year career.

Her work draws on a lifelong fascination with the antique jewelry of the Etruscans, Greeks and Romans as she creates her own neoclassical hand-made 18k gold jewelry. She selects every stone and designs every piece herself. While many covet the luminous stones or the Venetian glass intaglias in her designs, Elizabeth’s deepest passion is for one-of-a-kind antiques: 19th-century micro mosaics and pietra dura, 18th-century Chinese gambling counters, Essex crystals, miniature paintings and antique Japanese porcelain buttons.

The search for the perfect bit of history, to incorporate into her designs takes Elizabeth flying around the globe to European markets, antique shows and auctions in what she terms the “continual treasure hunt.” The antique porcelain button turns into a pendant or brooch, and the 2,000-year-old coin transforms into a ring or cufflinks, continuing Elizabeth’s artistic vision and the craftsmanship of 35 Thai goldsmiths dedicated to bringing her designs to life using centuries-old goldsmithing techniques.

Elizabeth spoke with Immediate Past President of the Garden Club of Virginia, Jean Gilpin, a personal friend and neighbor, on a walk-about of Elizabeth’s garden at Clay Hill.

Jean: Tell me how your fascination with antiquity began.

Elizabeth: My love of the classics began at age 11, when my father took me to Italy for the first time. I became enchanted with the graceful goddesses, sphinxes and caryatids. Right then I decided to learn to speak Italian and move to Italy. I kept both promises to myself and ended up receiving a graduate degree in Italian literature from the University of Florence. I spent years running my first business in Italy.

Jean: When did you decide to focus your creative energy on jewelry design?

Elizabeth: After moving back to the United States, I initially worked as a contributing editor for Town and Country magazine. A story on shopping in Bangkok turned out to be a life-altering event and eventually led me to a degree in gemology, which of course, has become my life’s vocation.

Jean: You have become an important figure in the design world, and your life experiences have been so exciting and adventurous. With the advent of COVID-19, I’m sure your travel abroad has been challenging. How have you adjusted to a more secluded lifestyle in Millwood?

Elizabeth: Like everyone else, my travel wings have been definitely clipped since the end of February when I unknowingly walked through Dulles Airport for the last time unaware of the changes that lay ahead. In “normal” times I would travel between five and six months out of the year. For the first time in 32 years I spent the entire month of March in Virginia and it was a revelation to the best sense of the word.

Every day in the morning and afternoon Violetta the cat and I would make our slow circuit around the gardens to observe the changes that this beautiful month brought on a daily basis. Since then, we have been gardening non-stop with a large vegetable garden, lots of borders of cut flowers and the largest planting of dahlias ever! It has been wonderful!

With the sudden shock to my business I was “retired” overnight and all of the energy that I normally would have focused on designing jewelry was addressed to homemaking, reading and gardening. I truly believe that the garden helped keep me stable. As things have begun to open up again my devotion to all of my plants has not waned at all, and I don’t think that in the future it will. To daily see the force and creativity of nature is beautiful, humbling and inspiring.

Jean: Tell me how your fascination with nature is beautiful, humbling and inspiring.

Elizabeth: Like everyone else my travel wings have been definitely clipped since the end of February when I unknowingly walked through Dulles Airport for the last time unaware of the changes that lay ahead. In “normal” times I would travel between five and six months out of the year. For the first time in 32 years I spent the entire month of March in Virginia and it was a revelation to the best sense of the word.

Every day in the morning and afternoon Violetta the cat and I would make our slow circuit around the gardens to observe the changes that this beautiful month brought on a daily basis. Since then, we have been gardening non-stop with a large vegetable garden, lots of borders of cut flowers and the largest planting of dahlias ever! It has been wonderful!

With the sudden shock to my business I was “retired” overnight and all of the energy that I normally would have focused on designing jewelry was addressed to homemaking, reading and gardening. I truly believe that the garden helped keep me stable. As things have begun to open up again my devotion to all of my plants has not waned at all, and I don’t think that in the future it will. To daily see the force and creativity of nature is beautiful, humbling and inspiring.

Jean: Tell me how your fascination with nature is beautiful, humbling and inspiring.

Elizabeth: Like everyone else my travel wings have been definitely clipped since the end of February when I unknowingly walked through Dulles Airport for the last time unaware of the changes that lay ahead. In “normal” times I would travel between five and six months out of the year. For the first time in 32 years I spent the entire month of March in Virginia and it was a revelation to the best sense of the word.

Every day in the morning and afternoon Violetta the cat and I would make our slow circuit around the gardens to observe the changes that this beautiful month brought on a daily basis. Since then, we have been gardening non-stop with a large vegetable garden, lots of borders of cut flowers and the largest planting of dahlias ever! It has been wonderful!

With the sudden shock to my business I was “retired” overnight and all of the energy that I normally would have focused on designing jewelry was addressed to homemaking, reading and gardening. I truly believe that the garden helped keep me stable. As things have begun to open up again my devotion to all of my plants has not waned at all, and I don’t think that in the future it will. To daily see the force and creativity of nature is beautiful, humbling and inspiring.

Jean: Tell me how your fascination with nature is beautiful, humbling and inspiring.

Elizabeth: Like everyone else my travel wings have been definitely clipped since the end of February when I unknowingly walked through Dulles Airport for the last time unaware of the changes that lay ahead. In “normal” times I would travel between five and six months out of the year. For the first time in 32 years I spent the entire month of March in Virginia and it was a revelation to the best sense of the word.

Every day in the morning and afternoon Violetta the cat and I would make our slow circuit around the gardens to observe the changes that this beautiful month brought on a daily basis. Since then, we have been gardening non-stop with a large vegetable garden, lots of borders of cut flowers and the largest planting of dahlias ever! It has been wonderful!

With the sudden shock to my business I was “retired” overnight and all of the energy that I normally would have focused on designing jewelry was addressed to homemaking, reading and gardening. I truly believe that the garden helped keep me stable. As things have begun to open up again my devotion to all of my plants has not waned at all, and I don’t think that in the future it will. To daily see the force and creativity of nature is beautiful, humbling and inspiring.

Jean: Tell me how your fascination with nature is beautiful, humbling and inspiring.

Elizabeth: Like everyone else my travel wings have been definitely clipped since the end of February when I unknowingly walked through Dulles Airport for the last time unaware of the changes that lay ahead. In “normal” times I would travel between five and six months out of the year. For the first time in 32 years I spent the entire month of March in Virginia and it was a revelation to the best sense of the word.

Every day in the morning and afternoon Violetta the cat and I would make our slow circuit around the gardens to observe the changes that this beautiful month brought on a daily basis. Since then, we have been gardening non-stop with a large vegetable garden, lots of borders of cut flowers and the largest planting of dahlias ever! It has been wonderful!

With the sudden shock to my business I was “retired” overnight and all of the energy that I normally would have focused on designing jewelry was addressed to homemaking, reading and gardening. I truly believe that the garden helped keep me stable. As things have begun to open up again my devotion to all of my plants has not waned at all, and I don’t think that in the future it will. To daily see the force and creativity of nature is beautiful, humbling and inspiring.

Jean: Tell me how your fascination with nature is beautiful, humbling and inspiring.

Elizabeth: Like everyone else my travel wings have been definitely clipped since the end of February when I unknowingly walked through Dulles Airport for the last time unaware of the changes that lay ahead. In “normal” times I would travel between five and six months out of the year. For the first time in 32 years I spent the entire month of March in Virginia and it was a revelation to the best sense of the word.

Every day in the morning and afternoon Violetta the cat and I would make our slow circuit around the gardens to observe the changes that this beautiful month brought on a daily basis. Since then, we have been gardening non-stop with a large vegetable garden, lots of borders of cut flowers and the largest planting of dahlias ever! It has been wonderful!

With the sudden shock to my business I was “retired” overnight and all of the energy that I normally would have focused on designing jewelry was addressed to homemaking, reading and gardening. I truly believe that the garden helped keep me stable. As things have begun to open up again my devotion to all of my plants has not waned at all, and I don’t think that in the future it will. To daily see the force and creativity of nature is beautiful, humbling and inspiring.

Jean: Tell me how your fascination with nature is beautiful, humbling and inspiring.

Elizabeth: Like everyone else my travel wings have been definitely clipped since the end of February when I unknowingly walked through Dulles Airport for the last time unaware of the changes that lay ahead. In “normal” times I would travel between five and six months out of the year. For the first time in 32 years I spent the entire month of March in Virginia and it was a revelation to the best sense of the word.

Every day in the morning and afternoon Violetta the cat and I would make our slow circuit around the gardens to observe the changes that this beautiful month brought on a daily basis. Since then, we have been gardening non-stop with a large vegetable garden, lots of borders of cut flowers and the largest planting of dahlias ever! It has been wonderful!

With the sudden shock to my business I was “retired” overnight and all of the energy that I normally would have focused on designing jewelry was addressed to homemaking, reading and gardening. I truly believe that the garden helped keep me stable. As things have begun to open up again my devotion to all of my plants has not waned at all, and I don’t think that in the future it will. To daily see the force and creativity of nature is beautiful, humbling and inspiring.

Jean: Tell me how your fascination with nature is beautiful, humbling and inspiring.

Elizabeth: Like everyone else my travel wings have been definitely clipped since the end of February when I unknowingly walked through Dulles Airport for the last time unaware of the changes that lay ahead. In “normal” times I would travel between five and six months out of the year. For the first time in 32 years I spent the entire month of March in Virginia and it was a revelation to the best sense of the word.

Every day in the morning and afternoon Violetta the cat and I would make our slow circuit around the gardens to observe the changes that this beautiful month brought on a daily basis. Since then, we have been gardening non-stop with a large vegetable garden, lots of borders of cut flowers and the largest planting of dahlias ever! It has been wonderful!

With the sudden shock to my business I was “retired” overnight and all of the energy that I normally would have focused on designing jewelry was addressed to homemaking, reading and gardening. I truly believe that the garden helped keep me stable. As things have begun to open up again my devotion to all of my plants has not waned at all, and I don’t think that in the future it will. To daily see the force and creativity of nature is beautiful, humbling and inspiring.
A Honeybee Heart Has Five Openings: A Year of Keeping Bees
By Helen Jukes

A true story, Jukes is in a funk when we meet her. She doesn’t like her job, she’s not in a romantic relationship, then her friends give her a hive. Apparently, a hive freely given brings good luck, but also a lot of responsibility. As the author embarks on her first year of beekeeping, it’s just as much about learning about how to nurture herself. This charming book explains the history and how to’s of taking care of bees. If you care about bees and our planet this deft metaphor for finding one’s true passion is sure to please.

American Gardens
By Monty Don

Recently published, this new book by a renowned British horticulturist, garden writer and broadcaster, is the most recent in a series that showcase the world’s most important and well-known gardens. This newest installment documents visits across America to some of our most historic outdoor spaces including: Monticello, Longwood Gardens, Lurie Garden, New York City’s Central Park and Seattle Spheres. Filled with lush photographs by Derry Moore, it complements the BBC television series by the same name.

Discover The Villas
at Shenandoah Valley Westminster-Canterbury

New Villas STARTING AT $299,800

We are excited to showcase our plans to provide another option for those seeking to live naturally. The designs for new independent living villas will add another 97 one- and two-bedroom residences to our community. Each Villa building, with floor plans ranging in size from 1,185 sq. ft. to 2,076 sq. ft., will have 9 or 10 residences, with a community room for gatherings and personal garage space.

The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate — Discoveries from a Secret World
By Peter Wohlleben

If you are one of those people who love language and get a little swoony with beautifully constructed prose, this book will be especially appreciated. Consider that it was originally written in German and translated, this subtle yet profound read by a professional forester is even more impressive, managing to be appealingly geeky and even a bit mystical. You will learn the scientific processes behind the lifecycle of a forest — the life, death and regeneration that takes place over so many years that most people are completely oblivious to it. Trees are not individuals but parts of a community. A forest is an ecosystem; being part of it benefits the group.

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle — A Year of Food Life
By Barbara Kingsolver

The first book of non-fiction by award-winning author and Pulitzer Prize nominee also has a Virginia connection. The concept behind this family story first published in 2007 was way before its time. Told in seasons, the first chapter is titled “Asparagus.” After moving from Arizona to the far south-western tip of Virginia, Kingsolver and her family begin a year of hyper local living. Nothing is consumed unless it is sourced from their neighborhood or grown at home in southern Appalachia. Her second husband, a professor of life sciences and a farmer, contributes essays about related topics, like sustainable agriculture. A teenage daughter and a vegetarian adds flavorful recipes, including one in the late summer chapter all about tomatoes and canning. Ten-year-old Lily raises chickens. Her adventures building a business selling the extra eggs contribute a note of humor.

Naturalistic Planting Design: The Essential Guide
By Nigel Dunnett

Renowned gardener and founder of the “Sheffield School” method of planting, this book teaches the reader...
NORTH REGION | features

Second Nature — A Gardener’s Education  
By Michael Pollen

Better known for his books Omnivore’s Dilemma and Food Inc., this modern take on Thoreau’s Walden Pond was written almost 30 years ago and was inspired by Pollen’s purchase of an old dairy farm in Connecticut. He plants a garden and the adventures with woodchucks and voles ensue. Told in a series of essays that make this appealingly readable, the stories are alternately funny and profound. Part autobiography, part meditation and part social history, this best-selling author covers topics as diverse as the perfect American lawn, pesticides, composting and planting a tree. Chosen by the American Horticulture Society as one of the 75 greatest books ever written about gardening, it’s a great read for cozy nights in front of a warm fire.

Nature’s Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard  
By Doug W. Tallamy*

Renowned conservationist, Tallamy has authored 95 research publications, multiple books and taught insect-related courses for 40 years. A literal grassroots call to action, this best seller will be popular with anyone looking to make a difference in their own backyard. He provides a detailed plan and recommendations in this impassioned how-to: plant native plants, shrink our lawns, avoid using chemicals and synthetic fertilizers, remove invasive species and support wildlife. Ultimately his message is both urgent and encouraging — we all can be part of the solution to our growing environmental challenges. Don’t miss this important treatise.

**Continued from page 29.**

Join the Garden Club of Virginia’s Conservation Committee at its first virtual Forum, open to the public at no charge.

62ND ANNUAL CONSERVATION FORUM
THE URBAN LANDSCAPE: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Healthy Habitats & Urban Greening

Pre-recorded presentations include:  
Conservationist Douglas W. Tallamy*, author of Nature’s Best Hope

A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard and Richmond’s Low Line, a project of Capital Trees

Visit GCVirginia.org/Forum2020

### Historic Garden Week Fall/Winter Magazine 2020

**FOUNDED IN 1920, WHEN 8 CLUBS CAME TOGETHER, THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA HAS BEEN COMMITTED TO PRESERVING THE BEAUTY OF VIRGINIA FOR ALL TO ENJOY FOR 100 YEARS. IT IS NOW AN ORGANIZATION OF 48 MEMBER CLUBS WITH 3,500 MEMBERS STATEWIDE.**

---

**THE OPEN BOOK**

**“Serving Old Town Since It Was New”**

**TOWN DUCK**

**Dominion Real Estate Associates**

**Kimberly’s**

**Serving Old Town Since It Was New**  
Management · Sales · Leasing

Accommodating the Residential and Commercial Real Estate Needs of Northern Virginia for over Half a Century

1707 Duke Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703-549-6103  
www.crtshelf.com

info@cshelf.com

Kimberly’s  
China & Crystal  
Fine Linens  
Home Decor  
Invitations & Stationery  
Ladies’ Apparel  
Children’s Boutique

135 North Braddock Street  
Winchester, Virginia 22601

540-662-2195

Superior Coverage, Fewer Coats.

Paint Like No Other

Benjamin Moore

Visit us today:

**Visit GCVirginia.org/Forum2020**

---

**Sheila’s Garden Center**

**Terrifield Garden Center**

**Proudly Supports**

Garden Club of Virginia  
Call Today for Your Complimentary Refreshment

---

Visit GCVirginia.org/Forum2020

---

**Sponsored by**

Investment Management of Virginia
A LEGACY OF LOVE AND PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE

“"You are starting out on an adventure. If you are not too ambitious in the beginning and you succeed more than you fail — you will have found a great happiness in life."” — BUNNY MELLON, ON STARTING A GARDEN.

Rachel Lambert "Bunny" Mellon, who is legendary within Virginia's horticultural community, developed a love of plants and gardening very early in her long life. At the age of 10, she began collecting botanical books. By the age of 12, she was an active gardener, inspired in part by the Olmsted brothers, sons of Frederick Law Olmsted, who managed the grounds of her father's estate in Princeton, New Jersey. Those early encounters with gardening and also with books on gardens and landscaping, awakened Bunny Mellon's relentless lifelong passion for plants, a passion that matured into a deep interest in the development of botanical knowledge and the principles of garden and landscape design in America and also in Europe. Through her studies she became a self-taught, but legendary, garden designer. Two of Mrs. Mellon's iconic designs still grace the grounds of the White House: the recently re-established Rose Garden and the East Garden, which was later renamed in honor of Bunny Mellon's close friend Jacqueline Kennedy.

BY MAX SMITH, HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS FOR OAK SPRING GARDEN FOUNDATION

OAK SPRING
The library, built close to her home in 1981 as a gift from Paul Mellon, was expanded in 1997 to contain her growing collection of books, manuscripts, and art on plants, gardens and landscapes. Mrs. Mellon’s wish was that the collection should continue to be a resource for scholars after her death and, in 1993, she established the Oak Spring Garden Foundation with the purpose of maintaining and sharing those collections. When Mrs. Mellon, who the New York Times called “the last empress,” passed away in March of 2014, it was the end of an era. The vast Oak Spring estate was divided into several parcels that were sold. Many of the treasures that were once part of Mrs. Mellon’s home were also dispersed, granted to family members, donated to museums, or sold at major sale at Sotheby’s in the fall of 2014. The resulting funds were used to meet her financial obligations and also to support the Gerard B. Lambert Foundation and the Oak Spring Garden Foundation. Support for the Oak Spring Garden Foundation ensured that Mrs. Mellon’s treasured library would not be moved elsewhere, could remain at Oak Spring and could be used by visiting artists and scholars. We are all fortunate that it was possible to retain these collections in this meaningful location, and that the library could be placed at the center of the varied programs of the Oak Spring Garden Foundation. When the foundation began operations in their current form in 2016, much of the immediate work focused on restoring the property and preparing the 700 acres for use in the foundation’s programs. This work included addressing deferred maintenance, adaptive reuse of renovated farm buildings for conferences and guest accommodation, and new land management practices with an eye towards long-term sustainability and the conservation of native plants and animals.

Today, the mission of the Oak Spring Garden Foundation is to perpetuate and share the gifts of Rachel Lambert Mellon, including her residence, garden, estate, and the Oak Spring Garden Library, to serve the public interest — to inspire and facilitate scholarship and public dialogue. At the foundation’s core are plants, gardens and landscapes, and their importance for human wellbeing. Oak Spring weaves the garden, library and landscape together with programming that upholds scholarship, artistic creativity, science and action for environmental sustainability.

A major program is to perpetuate Mrs. Mellon’s patronage of the arts and humanities through a series of fellowships and residencies. In 2019, with generous support from the Gerard B. Lambert Foundation, OSGF debuted two major fellowships named for Mrs. Mellon’s children — the Eliza Moore Fellowship for Artistic Excellence and the Stacy Lloyd III Fellowship for Bibliographic Study. Each year since then, these fellowships have supported emerging leaders in the arts and humanities whose work has benefitted from access to the collections of the Oak Spring Garden Library. Additional awards are also available for scholars and practitioners in plant organismal biology, botanical art and plant conservation biology. Interdisciplinary residency programs also allow a diverse array of artists and researchers to spend extended times at Oak Spring to infuse their work with inspiration gleaned from its unique garden, library and landscape.

The Oak Spring Garden Foundation has also ventured into sustainable agriculture. The Biocultural Conservation Farm (BCCF) established on the property in 2019 cultivates vegetables and fruits, with a special focus on heirloom varieties, conserving them as living plants and/or as seed, in order to illustrate, save and share the biological diversity of the edible plants that underpin food security. Production was also scaled up on the BCCF to provide an additional 15,000 lbs. of produce to those needing food. Oak Spring has also supported artists and researchers with socially distanced residencies as well as with a “COVID-19 Artist Response Program,” where artists supplied works for a curated online exhibition, “Shelter in Art: How Artists are Using the Pandemic to Re-Examine Their Relationship to the Natural World.”

A major disappointment of the COVID pandemic was the cancellation of the 2020 Historic Garden Week in Virginia, in which Oak Spring was to participate as a tour location. We hope that as we emerge from the COVID crisis in 2021 there will be time for reflection and healing. Our sincere wish is that through the beauty of plants and gardens Mrs. Mellon’s legacy can help save some of the disruptions of a very difficult year. Oak Spring plans to participate in the 2021 Historic Garden Week. We hope we will be able to welcome hundreds of visitors to the Oak Spring estate to enjoy the commanding vistas, rolling Piedmont landscape and a unique garden that is filled not just with memory, but with promise for the future.

“Once you fall under the spell of gardening — of growing things — of putting together colours, textures, farms, heights, materials, you will carry forever a cure.”

— BUNNY MELLOM

Bunny’s lifelong adventure in gardening took her far afield, but she was firmly rooted in the 4,000-acre Oak Spring estate in Upperville, Virginia, that she shared with her husband Paul Mellon and where she planted her Oak Spring Garden.

“...like a piece of cloth it is woven of thoughts and memories of gardening — of growing things — of putting together colours, textures, forms, and materials, you will carry forever a cure.”  

— BUNNY MELLOM

The creation of a garden is the work and thoughts of many minds...”

— BUNNY MELLOM

Photos on previous spread and this spread unless otherwise noted are courtesy of Mary Jane. Photos courtesy of Roger Foley.
ASHLAND
Saturday offers two options. Head 26 miles north from Richmond to Old Ridge Road, an original rolling road dating from the early 1700s, providing access to the Piedmont region of Hanover County near the picturesque town of Ashland. The area remains rural, featuring farms, fields, forests and rocky streams in the forks of the Pamunkey River. Whether you’re drawn to hand-hewn cabins or formal symmetrical gardens, visitors will discover architectural and floral treasures in the heart of Hanover.

JAMES RIVER PLANTATIONS
If a southern course beckons, drive about a half hour to the James River Plantations, open together for Historic Garden Week on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Three renowned sites and a church established in the early 1600s are located between scenic Rt. 5 and the James River in Charles City, a county with an expansive history over its 400 years, including the indigenous, the indentured, the enslaved, early European settlers and generations of their descendents. Built in the 1700s by a combination of indentured and enslaved labor, Berkeley, Shirley and Westover Plantations are Virginia and National Historic Landmarks, working farms, private homes and living links to our country’s past.

PETERSBURG AND FREDERICKSBURG
Tuesday offers three choices for touring. Head north on Interstate 95 to Fredericksburg or south, a similar distance, towards Petersburg. Just steps from Fredericksburg’s bustling historic business district are neighborhoods that reveal layers of the city’s past. The historic private homes and gardens on this walking tour showcase the evolution that occurs through restoration, renovation and adaptation to modern needs. Each property is distinct in its architecture and design, and includes charming gardens welcoming guests. Enjoy plein air artists, floral and plant care demonstrations as well as horticultural exhibits while strolling through the neighborhoods. After touring, the locally-owned shops, galleries and restaurants of downtown Fredericksburg are just steps away, making for a full day.

Visitors who travel through the countryside of Prince George County east of Petersburg will delight in properties with river views. This driving tour includes a private woodland garden filled with numerous native plantings, wildflowers, shade-loving moss and an impressive assortment of fern. Tour headquarters is Merchants Hope Church, built in 1740.

If staying put seems more appealing, use Richmond as your home base for a week of touring with minimal travel.


Saturday, April 17
Ashland or James River Plantations (Westover, Shirley and Berkeley)

Sunday, April 18 & Monday April 19
James River Plantations

Tuesday, April 20
Petersburg, Fredericksburg or Richmond: Private gardens in Hampton Gardens

Wednesday, April 21
Richmond: Church Hill or Northern Neck

Thursday, April 22
Richmond: Monument Avenue

Friday, April 23
Richmond: The Executive Mansion, Maymont, or Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
HAMPTON GARDENS

Alternatively, stay in Richmond for three back-to-back walking tours, the first at the Hampton Gardens neighborhood in the Near West End. Unique in the state, Richmond's tours showcase three different areas. Like many residential developments along Cary Street Road in the early 20th century, this neighborhood began as a streetcar suburb. Stred between Patterson Avenue and Cary Street Road in Richmond's highly desirable Westhampton area, charming Hampton Gardens provides magnificent examples of traditional architecture, including Tudor, Georgian, Federal, Revival, and mid-century transitional styles surround by lush, mature landscaping. This easy walking tour showcases private gardens and stunning outdoor living spaces on Roslyn and Cary Street Roads, as well as Greenway and Oak Lanes. Additionally, ticket holders are invited to visit and picnic on the grounds of Wilton House, a Garden Club of Virginia (GCV) restoration site, and also at Tuckahoe Plantation, the boyhood home of Thomas Jefferson. Centered around St. John's Church (1741) where Patrick Henry gave his famous "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech, this district boasts the most antebellum structures in Richmond, and served as the pilot restoration project for Historic Richmond in 1996. Co-naming with granite pavers, brick sidewalks, gaslights and mature tree canopies, the residence ranges from early 19th-century Federal style to mid-century Greek Revival and late 19th-century styles, making Church Hill one of the best preserved 19th-century cityscapes in the United States. Public open spaces along the river bluffs provide expansive views of the James River and downtown, creating a unique park-like setting for this historic neighborhood. Hosted by the Council of Historic Richmond and the four Richmond Garden Club of Virginia chapters, this walking tour of private homes in the neighborhood offers a glimpse into the beauty and rich history of Church Hill.

MAYMONT & LEWIS GINTER

The Garden Club of Virginia restored the ornamental lawn surrounding Maymont from 1996-98. It now features a shrub labyrinth, restored walkway, specimen trees and rose arbors. The Italian Garden contains paterns and a romantic pergola; the Japanese Garden includes a dramatic 5-foot waterfall. In 2006, the GCV replaced an allée of elms with specimen trees, fountains, and follies. Its beauty and proximity to downtown and cultural venues make it popular with locals and tourists alike. Named for the confederate statues that formerly punctuated its skyline, Monument Avenue's memorials are in the process of removal as the community strives to reconcile its painful past. Tour goers will have the opportunity to visit private garden gems, explore the neighborhood’s unique pocket parks and flowering alleyways, and experience the epicenter of Richmond's restoration project for Historic Richmond.

NORTHERN NECK

The Northern Neck driving tour leads the Chesapeake Bay or explore Northern Neck, a land of rivers, drive to Lancaster County, the "lower gardens at the height of spring beauty. boyhood home of Thomas Jefferson and also at Tuckahoe Plantation, the Club of Virginia (GCV) restoration site, Additionally, tour ticket holders are Roslyn and Cary Street Roads, as well landcapes. This easy walking tour Revival, and mid-century transitional including Tudor, Georgian, Federal examples of traditional architecture, Westhampton area, charming Hamp- Cary Street Road in the early 20th century. Richmond's tours showcase three different areas. Like many residential developments along Cary Street Road in Richmond's highly desirable Westhampton area, charming Hampton Gardens provides magnificent examples of traditional architecture, including Tudor, Georgian, Federal, Revival, and mid-century transitional styles; making Church Hill one of the best preserved areas. Like many residential developments along Cary Street Road in Richmond's highly desirable Westhampton area, charming Hampton Gardens provides magnificent examples of traditional architecture, including Tudor, Georgian, Federal, Revival, and mid-century transitional styles. This easy walking tour showcases private gardens and stunning outdoor living spaces on Roslyn and Cary Street Roads, as well as Greenway and Oak Lanes. Additionally, tour ticket holders are invited to visit and picnic on the grounds of Wilton House, a Garden Club of Virginia (GCV) restoration site, and also at Tuckahoe Plantation, the boyhood home of Thomas Jefferson. Centered around St. John's Church (1741) where Patrick Henry gave his famous "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech, this district boasts the most antebellum structures in Richmond, and served as the pilot restoration project for Historic Richmond in 1996. Co-naming with granite pavers, brick sidewalks, gaslights and mature tree canopies, the residence ranges from early 19th-century Federal style to mid-century Greek Revival and late 19th-century styles, making Church Hill one of the best preserved 19th-century cityscapes in the United States. Public open spaces along the river bluffs provide expansive views of the James River and downtown, creating a unique park-like setting for this historic neighborhood. Hosted by the Council of Historic Richmond and the four Richmond Garden Club of Virginia chapters, this walking tour of private homes in the neighborhood offers a glimpse into the beauty and rich history of Church Hill. The Garden Club of Virginia is truly grateful for the steadfast commitment from our partners through their support of Historic Garden Week 2020, despite its cancellation. Special thanks to local 2020 Honor Roll sponsors and its Garden Club of Virginia, advertisers, listed here alphabetically and by the Central region.}

The Garden Club of Virginia is truly grateful for the steadfast commitment from our partners through their support of Historic Garden Week 2020, despite its cancellation. Special thanks to local 2020 Honor Roll sponsors and its Garden Club of Virginia, advertisers, listed here alphabetically and by the Central region.

The Garden Club of Virginia is truly grateful for the steadfast commitment from our partners through their support of Historic Garden Week 2020, despite its cancellation. Special thanks to local 2020 Honor Roll sponsors and its Garden Club of Virginia, advertisers, listed here alphabetically and by the Central region.

The Garden Club of Virginia is truly grateful for the steadfast commitment from our partners through their support of Historic Garden Week 2020, despite its cancellation. Special thanks to local 2020 Honor Roll sponsors and its Garden Club of Virginia, advertisers, listed here alphabetically and by the Central region.

The Garden Club of Virginia is truly grateful for the steadfast commitment from our partners through their support of Historic Garden Week 2020, despite its cancellation. Special thanks to local 2020 Honor Roll sponsors and its Garden Club of Virginia, advertisers, listed here alphabetically and by the Central region.

The Garden Club of Virginia is truly grateful for the steadfast commitment from our partners through their support of Historic Garden Week 2020, despite its cancellation. Special thanks to local 2020 Honor Roll sponsors and its Garden Club of Virginia, advertisers, listed here alphabetically and by the Central region.

The Garden Club of Virginia is truly grateful for the steadfast commitment from our partners through their support of Historic Garden Week 2020, despite its cancellation. Special thanks to local 2020 Honor Roll sponsors and its Garden Club of Virginia, advertisers, listed here alphabetically and by the Central region.

The Garden Club of Virginia is truly grateful for the steadfast commitment from our partners through their support of Historic Garden Week 2020, despite its cancellation. Special thanks to local 2020 Honor Roll sponsors and its Garden Club of Virginia, advertisers, listed here alphabetically and by the Central region.

The Garden Club of Virginia is truly grateful for the steadfast commitment from our partners through their support of Historic Garden Week 2020, despite its cancellation. Special thanks to local 2020 Honor Roll sponsors and its Garden Club of Virginia, advertisers, listed here alphabetically and by the Central region.

The Garden Club of Virginia is truly grateful for the steadfast commitment from our partners through their support of Historic Garden Week 2020, despite its cancellation. Special thanks to local 2020 Honor Roll sponsors and its Garden Club of Virginia, advertisers, listed here alphabetically and by the Central region.
When fall camellias fade and winter’s drear sets in, mahonia can seem like a trip to the tropics. This evergreen shrub, also called Oregon grape holly, begins its golden show in early January and continues through February. Heavy snow is no deterrent for this plucky (and prickly) plant with shiny gray-green foliage. Its blossoms are small, but heady. Mahonia’s fragrance will stop you in your tracks. As the days lengthen, flowers mature to abundant sprays of pendulous smokey blue berries, an important food source for birds in the winter months. A flock can denude a bush in a day when the fruit is perfectly ripe. Fortunately, the berries of this useful landscaping specimen seldom attract hungry deer.

Plant this easy-to-grow bush where its thorny foliage isn’t too close to a walkway. They are tough in most parts of Virginia and tolerate a wide variety of soils, as well as coastal conditions. Improved hybrids like ‘Winter Sun,’ ‘Underway’ and ‘Charity’ bloom a rich yellow. This showy harbinger of spring can add much needed color and interest to a dormant garden for up to three months. Individual racemes, or flower clusters, are as beautiful as they are unusual in small arrangements. Resembling droopy bunches of grapes, large cuttings minus foliage can be stunning in a tall vase.
IN 1927 THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA WAS ASKED TO HELP SAVE AND REPLANT SOME TREES AT MONTICELLO. Members held a flower show and raised $7,000 – the equivalent of over $1 million in today’s dollars. When they were asked to help restore the gardens at Kenmore, George Washington’s sister’s house, in Fredericksburg, they felt up to the task. The idea of hosting a house & garden tour was born – the first Historic Garden Week took place in 1929.

---

CENTRAL REGION

features

---

THE BIZARRE BAZAAR

Join Us!

The 29th Spring Market

April 9 – 11

The 46th CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

December 2 – 5

Over Forty Years of Fabulous!

RICHMOND RACEWAY COMPLEX
600 E. Layman Ave. • Richmond, VA 23222

For information, please contact:
(804) 673-7015 or (888) 873-6280
www.thebizarrebazaar.com

---

STRAWBERRY STREET SALES
LONG & FOSTER REAL ESTATE, INC.
SERVING GREATER RICHMOND FROM THE HEART OF THE CITY

---

H. J. Holtz & Son

Creating Warm Welcomes
with quality products and service for over 75 years

---

H. J. Holtz & Son Specialty in the

Gardens of Great Britain, Ireland, France & Italy

---

For All Things Travel ~
From Gateway to One of a Lifetime Experiences we can Personal Travel Consultants with Professional Knowledge and Insider Access to get you the best in travel – garden and otherwise!
HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK IS THE ONLY STATEWIDE HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR IN THE NATION – it features 30 tours taking place over 8 consecutive days at the end of April and showcases approximately 200 private properties. For more information, VAGardenWeek.org.
For New Yorkers, Richmond is a place they drive through on the way to somewhere else. I was one of those people driving along Interstate 95 when I set out to write and photograph a book about how cities are changing through adaptive reuse and new design.

Spending time with friends helps you know them better. To me, travel is the same. The more you spend time in a city, the more you know it. My relationship with Richmond has evolved since I first stopped at the Union Market for lunch in 2016. We were looking for a place to sit outside with our cocker spaniel. The combination grocery and café with a patio was perfect. A year later, with a book contract in hand, I began to research and organize. Richmond made the final list of 14 cities that I planned to feature.

As with my past projects, a book on Brooklyn and one on Detroit, and this new book, titled Cool Is Everywhere: New and Adaptive Design Across America, Michel Arnaud, an internationally recognized photographer whose work has been featured in Architectural Digest and Vogue. He included Quirk Hotel, the ICA, the Dykshorn residence, Blue Bee Cidery, and the Black History Museum in the Richmond section of his most recent book, published in 2020. Photos by Michel Arnaud.

Richmond has retained the sophistication and defining qualities of its urban environment through diversity, a place for higher education, and a vibrant foodie and arts scene. For some, Richmond is associated with its past. However, more recently, the city is known for demonstrations for racial equality. What became clear in our time in Richmond was that bold architecture is emerging there, that examples of innovative adaptive reuse is on the rise, that nature is considered integral to these designs and in city life, and that a new history is being written. That is pretty cool.

BY MICHEL ARNAUD WITH JANE CREECH

The next day Isaac drove me up to Libby Hill Park in Church Hill for the best skyline views. It was here that early city founders took inspiration for the city’s name from Richmond, England. We went to Philip Johnson’s WRVA Building, a radio station that opened in 1968. Sited in the historic Church Hill neighborhood, the complex includes a concrete tower with a spiral staircase.

Then, we toured the grounds of the American Civil War Museum at Historic Tredegar Ironworks. We explored the plaza that connects the remaining brick buildings and the glass entrance of the new building. Flowering trees and neatly trimmed shrubs contrast the rectangular concrete planters containing tall grasses. We walked along the 1865 Exhibit which is displayed on a bridge that links to Brown’s Island in the James River.

A few days later, Jane and I met with Forest Frazier who moved from Brooklyn in 2018. He opened his practice, Architecture AF, in Jackson’s Ward. His first project was one side of a duplex building. The revitalization of the building included an office on the first level and a residential unit above. The black exterior draws attention and the building is an example of fresh infill urban design in the neighborhood.

Forest mentioned that we should see Todd and Neely Dykshorn’s house in Church Hill. Todd is an architect and works on adaptive reuse and hospitality projects. He restored and preserved the original white clapboard house that predates Civil War times, and replaced an older addition with a new structure made in glass and steel. His addition added a kitchen and family room on the first floor and a main bedroom on the second floor. Standing in the front dining room, you can see through the kitchen to the garden with its 19th-century retaining wall forming the north edge.

This spring they planted Montmorency and Black Tartarian cherry trees. An evergreen hedge planted along the side of the house provides privacy downstairs. When they moved in, their front garden was a sidewalk, so they decided to ask the city to reopen a long bricked-in tree well. The simple change offset a very urban condition. Now a plum tree flourishes there and adds a grace note to a very old house with a new life.
AN OLD HOUSE BECOMES STRIKINGLY NEW

By Madeline Mayhood

“Cool” design doesn’t often translate to 19th-century architecture, much less to a tenement duplex in Church Hill, an urban neighborhood in downtown Richmond. And from the street it looks, the meticulously renovated structure looks rather quaint and noble, with a respectful nod to historical accuracy in its new, 21st-century chapter. But make a turn onto the side street—the house sits on a corner lot—and the mammoth steel and glass structure reveals a seriously cool addition. The designers and owners, Todd and Neely Dykshorn, incorporated it into their plans when they began the renovation of the purchased the property five years ago. The house was quaint and old—both positives for us—in a neighborhood we love,” Todd says. The end result—Todd and Neely Dykshorn, incorporated it into their plans when they began the

The design began about the outdoor spaces as much as the indoor. The site is bordered on the north by a 10-foot-tall mid-19th century (we think) granite retaining wall out of which flow two active springs. That drove the plan. We wanted to capture those elements in daily life both in and out. The exterior character was an interesting path. The house is in a City Old and Historic District, and therefore any work has to be approved by a commission of architectural review. We actually started with a version that proposed a wood clad addition, mirroring the older section of the house, and submitted that as an application. Neither of us were over the moon about it though, and one day we talked about what we really wanted to do, which was a glass pavilion in the yard. I asked the then head of the commission, who lives in the neighborhood, to get a reaction, and she surprised us by telling us to go for it. We’ve both liked and wanted to preserve the earliest part of the house—the sturdy, clapboard gable section—so attaching a contemporary, obviously differentiated, new piece seemed natural, particularly because based on the landscape plan. It peaks around the older section, rather than being entirely behind it.

Madeline Mayhood: 19th century tenement architecture and 21st century design aren’t necessarily created equal and integrating the old and new is sometimes challenging. How did you reconcile such disparate, different architectural periods in your plans? What are the sorts of design details that make it work?

Todd Dykshorn: The design began about the outdoor spaces as much as the indoor. The site is bordered on the north by a 10-foot-tall mid-19th century (we think) granite retaining wall out of which flow two active springs. That drove the plan. We wanted to capture those elements in daily life both in and out. The exterior character was an interesting path. The house is in a City Old and Historic District, and therefore any work has to be approved by a commission of architectural review. We actually started with a version that proposed a wood clad addition, mirroring the older section of the house, and submitted that as an application. Neither of us were over the moon about it though, and one day we talked about what we really wanted to do, which was a glass pavilion in the yard. I asked the then head of the commission, who lives in the neighborhood, to get a reaction, and she surprised us by telling us to go for it. We’ve both liked and wanted to preserve the earliest part of the house—the sturdy, clapboard gable section—so attaching a contemporary, obviously differentiated, new piece seemed natural, particularly because based on the landscape plan. It peaks around the older section, rather than being entirely behind it.

Todd Dykshorn: What’s your favorite part of your house/property and why?

Madeline Mayhood: What’s your favorite part of your house/property and why?

MM: Absolutely. The elements of the yard were the reason for the project and were the generators for most early concepts, motivated by the chance to organize their features and spaces. Despite being compact, the site around the house offers an amazing variety of attitudes and qualities. We had already planted a hedgerow that we hoped would eventually displace a wood fence along the alley on the most exposed side of the property. About the time we were finishing construction, the hedge was established enough that the fence could come down. Now, there is just a gate door buried in the hedge that takes you from the busy road the house sits on, to a happily quiet and focused place with the spring providing a backdrop of running water.

MM: Tell me about the outside. What goal did you have in mind for the landscape? Did its history factor into your plan(s)?

Todd Dykshorn: Who are your design heroes?

Madeline Mayhood: What’s your favorite part of your house/property and why?

TD: It’s hard to pin a favorite, but probably the happiest, unexpected result is the character and use of the old house’s rooms on both levels. They’re like dollhouse rooms which were never that comfortable or easy to spend time in, and now they are. We were a little nervous about the glass bedroom upstairs and had a backup plan for a sleeping nook in the more opaque middle section upstairs. We love that room with its variety of light and shadow through open or closed curtains. I have to mention the downstairs fireplace room through, which is the most comfortable nook of a room ever. We kept its small size, low ceiling and rear window that now looks into the addition’s glass room.

TD: It’s hard to pin a favorite, but probably the happiest, unexpected result is the character and use of the old house’s rooms on both levels. They’re like dollhouse rooms which were never that comfortable or easy to spend time in, and now they are. We were a little nervous about the glass bedroom upstairs and had a backup plan for a sleeping nook in the more opaque middle section upstairs. We love that room with its variety of light and shadow through open or closed curtains. I have to mention the downstairs fireplace room through, which is the most comfortable nook of a room ever. We kept its small size, low ceiling and rear window that now looks into the addition’s glass room.

Madeline Mayhood: What’s your favorite part of your house/property and why?

Todd Dykshorn: Who are your design heroes?

Madeline Mayhood: What’s your favorite part of your house/property and why?

TD: Hmm...that’s a great question. Being married to Neely, who is a decorative arts grad, I’m constantly amazed that I made it through eight years of design education and never heard of the designers she studied. Those in fashion, furniture, fabrics, graphics and more, who I now realize were often in collaboration with the architects we were studying. Growing up in the Midwest with early exposure to FLW [Frank Lloyd Wright] and now being in an environment that created Williamsburg, Poplar Forest and UVA’s lawn, I have to admit it’s difficult to come down on a side of what makes a great building, space or landscape. I try to look at it all.

Madeline Mayhood: What’s your favorite part of your house/property and why?

Todd Dykshorn: The design began about the outdoor spaces as much as the indoor. The site is bordered on the north by a 10-foot-tall mid-19th century (we think) granite retaining wall out of which flow two active springs. That drove the plan. We wanted to capture those elements in daily life both in and out. The exterior character was an interesting path. The house is in a City Old and Historic District, and therefore any work has to be approved by a commission of architectural review. We actually started with a version that proposed a wood clad addition, mirroring the older section of the house, and submitted that as an application. Neither of us were over the moon about it though, and one day we talked about what we really wanted to do, which was a glass pavilion in the yard. I asked the then head of the commission, who lives in the neighborhood, to get a reaction, and she surprised us by telling us to go for it. We’ve both liked and wanted to preserve the earliest part of the house—the sturdy, clapboard gable section—so attaching a contemporary, obviously differentiated, new piece seemed natural, particularly because based on the landscape plan. It peaks around the older section, rather than being entirely behind it.

Madeline Mayhood: What’s your favorite part of your house/property and why?

Todd Dykshorn: The design began about the outdoor spaces as much as the indoor. The site is bordered on the north by a 10-foot-tall mid-19th century (we think) granite retaining wall out of which flow two active springs. That drove the plan. We wanted to capture those elements in daily life both in and out. The exterior character was an interesting path. The house is in a City Old and Historic District, and therefore any work has to be approved by a commission of architectural review. We actually started with a version that proposed a wood clad addition, mirroring the older section of the house, and submitted that as an application. Neither of us were over the moon about it though, and one day we talked about what we really wanted to do, which was a glass pavilion in the yard. I asked the then head of the commission, who lives in the neighborhood, to get a reaction, and she surprised us by telling us to go for it. We’ve both liked and wanted to preserve the earliest part of the house—the sturdy, clapboard gable section—so attaching a contemporary, obviously differentiated, new piece seemed natural, particularly because based on the landscape plan. It peaks around the older section, rather than being entirely behind it.

Todd Dykshorn: What’s your favorite part of your house/property and why?

Madeline Mayhood: What’s your favorite part of your house/property and why?

TD: It’s hard to pin a favorite, but probably the happiest, unexpected result is the character and use of the old house’s rooms on both levels. They’re like dollhouse rooms which were never that comfortable or easy to spend time in, and now they are. We were a little nervous about the glass bedroom upstairs and had a backup plan for a sleeping nook in the more opaque middle section upstairs. We love that room with its variety of light and shadow through open or closed curtains. I have to mention the downstairs fireplace room through, which is the most comfortable nook of a room ever. We kept its small size, low ceiling and rear window that now looks into the addition’s glass room.

Madeline Mayhood: What’s your favorite part of your house/property and why?

Todd Dykshorn: The design began about the outdoor spaces as much as the indoor. The site is bordered on the north by a 10-foot-tall mid-19th century (we think) granite retaining wall out of which flow two active springs. That drove the plan. We wanted to capture those elements in daily life both in and out. The exterior character was an interesting path. The house is in a City Old and Historic District, and therefore any work has to be approved by a commission of architectural review. We actually started with a version that proposed a wood clad addition, mirroring the older section of the house, and submitted that as an application. Neither of us were over the moon about it though, and one day we talked about what we really wanted to do, which was a glass pavilion in the yard. I asked the then head of the commission, who lives in the neighborhood, to get a reaction, and she surprised us by telling us to go for it. We’ve both liked and wanted to preserve the earliest part of the house—the sturdy, clapboard gable section—so attaching a contemporary, obviously differentiated, new piece seemed natural, particularly because based on the landscape plan. It peaks around the older section, rather than being entirely behind it.
WHY ARE MY AZALEAS BLOOMING NOW?

BY PEGGY SINGLEMANN, Director of Park Operations and Horticulture at Maymont and Host, Virginia Home Grown VPM PBS

Fall always provides a few surprises in the garden and this year is no exception. The unique year of 2020 is still proving to be an exceptional one. Some spring blooming shrubs and trees are blooming out of sequence by showcasing a few blossoms now. No need to panic, this is not as unusual as it seems. Occasionally, this happens.

Spring flowering plants set their flower buds during the summer months. The period of hot, dry weather this past summer tricked some plants into an early dormancy. Periods of fall weather can mimic spring. Since only a few flowers are blooming, spring’s glorious display will not be greatly impacted.

There is a lesson to learn from these untimely blossoms. First, they remind gardeners that spring flowering plants set their flower buds for the following spring on the present year’s growth. Late summer through spring is the time to prune these trees and shrubs since doing so will remove many of the flower buds, reducing the show come spring. While an errant branch may be removed in the fall or winter, prune spring flowering plants after they bloom.

Conversely, summer and fall flowering trees and shrubs form their flower buds on the new growth of the spring season. Hydrangea macrophylla (blue or pink mophead hydrangeas) for example, bloom on the previous year’s growth or old wood. A harsh winter can freeze the expectant flower buds just as quickly as a sharp pair of clippers wielded in the spring. Pruned in the late winter/early spring before the new growth breaks the bud stage. Regardless of when a plant blooms, always remove deadwood or any branches that are crossing and rubbing one another.

I welcome gardening and pruning questions through Virginia Home Grown’s Facebook page, or send them in during the show, which airs live from March to October on VPM PBS.

CREATE A GARDEN WITH FOUR SEASON INTEREST

Plants to Entice People and Wildlife Throughout the Year

BY MEG TURNER

When planting a garden, be sure to incorporate a variety of plants to ensure interest, as well as food, shelter and pollination sources for wildlife, throughout the year.

Some of my favorites, many that are native to Virginia, include:

• American Cranberrybush Viburnum (Viburnum opulus var. americanum)
• Autumn Fern (Dryopteris eythrosora ‘Brilliance’)
• Eastern Redbud (Cercis canadensis)
• Lenten Rose (Helleborus orientalis)
• Oakleaf Hydrangea (Hydrangea quercifolia)
• Purity Pieris (Pieris japonica ‘Purity’)
• Purple Passionflower Vine (Passiflora incarnata)
• Sasanqua Camellia (Camellia sasanqua)
• Southern Magnolia (Magnolia grandiflora)
• Virginia Bluebell (Mertensia virginica)
• White Oak (Quercus alba)
• Winter Daphne (Daphne odora ‘Aureomarginata’)

Meg Turner, the owner of M. Turner Landscapes (MTL) and the Chair of Capital Trees, will open her garden in Richmond as part of Historic Garden Week on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. Capital Trees is a nonprofit organization created by Garden Club of Virginia members in 2010. What began as a community project is now a full-fledged operation dedicated to creating and enhancing green spaces.

THE AFFENDIKI GROUP 804-598-3530
ALISON BECKER 804-223-2807
KAREN BERKENESS 804-533-0995
SARAH CARSWELL 804-690-1100
SUSAN COX 804-241-3716
SUE FARRELL 804-405-0044
DAVID FEBISH 804-967-2735
GEORGE FOREMAN 804-359-2309
PAT HANKO 804-389-6152
LISA RUFFIN HARRISON 804-337-2576
HAWTHORNE & HATCHER
SALLY HAWTHORNE 804-357-2309
SHARON HATCHER 804-602-8587
LOU JOHNSON 804-347-6569
NONA KAHN 804-521-3206
DIANE LILLY 804-467-5683
SHELLEY MOGEE 804-347-8626
SUSAN MCKINSTRY MORRIS 804-647-4474
BRUCE NUGENT 804-543-8657
JIM & DONNA RANGONE 804-373-3735
MELANIE ROUPAS 804-221-9525
KAREN STEPHENS 804-554-4769
KATIE STILES 804-317-5258
GARY CARTER TUPPIN 804-363-6225
SUZANNAH VEST 804-350-4774
WY THE SHOCKEY 804-874-0579
SHARON WOOD 804-405-1751

TICKETS FOR HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK 2021 AVAILABLE ONLINE BEGINNING MID-JANUARY AT VAGARDENWEEK.ORG

VISIT STRATFORD HALL
Wednesday-Sunday
10am - 5pm

NOW OFFERING VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK 2021 FALL/WINTER MAGAZINE

HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK 2021 FALL/WINTER MAGAZINE
SUFFOLK
The first day of Historic Garden Week provides three touring choices. The easily-accessible walking tour at Governor’s Pointe in Suffolk spotlights private homes with expansive gardens in a lovely neighborhood located on the banks of the Nansemond River, named by the colonists for the local Native American tribe. Once lush farmland on high cliffs, the area captures the active river life beyond and was developed to maintain the natural beauty and integrity of the site.

GLOUCESTER
Also on Saturday is a tour in Gloucester and Mathews County. Rich in farmland and important to the Virginia fishing industry, this bucolic area is often called the “Daffodil Capital of the World.” Showcased properties include one of the earliest domestic structures in the United States, continually inhabited since 1652. This outstanding example of an early Tidewater planter’s home features over 100 acres and a nearly mile-long riverfront with enormous willow oaks commanding the longest southern exposure of any home on the North River. Another featured property sits well back from Main Street in Mathews, behind a sweeping lawn dappled by the shade of mature trees.

JAMES RIVER PLANTATIONS
Spend Saturday, Sunday or Monday touring three iconic James River Plantations. Berkeley Plantation was the site of the first official Thanksgiving in 1619. The Georgian mansion has five terraced gardens that were dug by hand before the Revolutionary War. Shirley is home to 12 generations of the same family. The mansion was begun in 1723 and is still lived in by direct descendants, the Hill Carter family. William Byrd II, author, diarist, colonial leader and founder of the cities of Petersburg and Richmond, lived at Westover Plantation, one of the finest examples of Georgian architecture in America. The lawn includes century-old tulip poplars and offers a commanding view of the James River.

Birthplace of presidents and Pocahontas, with spectacular waterfront views, the East Region is where history and hospitality converge.


Photo above courtesy of Sandy Gasper. Photo to the right courtesy of Diane Ginsburg.
HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK FALL/WINTER MAGAZINE 2020
EAST REGION   |
continuing commitment to the
gardens. Celebrating 50 years of participation
in Historic Garden Week, its spectacular
gardens, a mecca for the impressive
variety of birds and waterfowl that
feed here, the area showcases
newly constructed or renovated
properties, each with equally
splendid gardens. A bonus stop is a
stunning, waterfront garden
lovingly planted and maintained by
the master-gardener owners. Enjoy
lunch on the waterfront at tour
corporate headquarters, the Cavalier Golf
and Yacht Club. It was originally created
in 1927 to serve the recreational
needs of guests of the iconic, and
recently restored, Cavalier Hotel.

WILLIAMSBURG
On Tuesday, continue south down scenic Rt. 5 to Williamsburg for a
flower-filled look at six gardens. Visitors will delight in the variety of
landscapes — garden rooms, historic gardens, secret gardens and even
a farm garden will be open. Make sure to allow time for the escorted walking
tour of gardens in the Colonial area, as well as shopping at nearby
Merchant’s Square. We all appreciate green space more than ever these
days. Continue the inspiration with access to additional properties rarely
open to the public decorated with flower arrangements for indoor and
outdoor entertaining. Learn about the archaeology used to understand the
hidden ornamental gardens of the colorful John Curtis IV, a British
politician who served on the Governor’s Council in the 1700s.
Tour goers can see the newly
installed Revely Garden at William & Mary too. Its terraces, pathways
and plantings embody the GCV’s continuing commitment to the
restoration and preservation of historic
landscapes in Virginia.

YORKTOWN
On Wednesday, it is only a half hour
drive to the Yorktown tour. River views and village
gardens, with colonial and
revolutionary history woven throughout
the experience will make this tour of
private homes, landscapes and landmark
curry special. Tour goers will enjoy
access to properties located in the
charming village, one of the original
squares formed in Colonial Virginia in
1682, as well as one perched high on the
York River bluff, offering a stunning
vista. Horticulture enthusiasts will linger in
gardens surrounding a recently
remodeled 1920s bungalow. And history buffs won’t be able to resist the site
where the terms of surrender by General
Cornwallis to General Washington were
given to John Montresor. Filled with
small, quaint towns and abundant
wildlife. Middlesex is home to more than 10,000 residents. Many more
enjoy it as a vacation getaway. This
driving excursion includes properties
built as early as 1781 and
as recently as the 1990s near the
Piankatank and Rappahannock
Rivers. Nearby points of interest are
in the charming seaside towns of
Saluda, Deltaville and Urbanna.

EASTERN SHORE
Come by bridge or boat to explore the
gardens and history on Virginia’s
Eastern Shore on the final day
of Historic Garden Week 2021. Settled
just a few years after Capt. John Smith
landed at Jamestown, this narrow
peninsula is situated between the
Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic
Ocean. Perennial tour centerpiece, National Historic Landmark and
recipient of a Garden Club of Virginia
fellowship, Eyre Hall c. 1800 is an
acclaimed ancestral property
displaying some of the country’s
oldest continuously maintained
gardens. Celebrating 50 years of participation
in Historic Garden Week, its spectacular
gardens, a mecca for the impressive
variety of birds and waterfowl that
feed here, the area showcases
newly constructed or renovated
properties, each with equally
splendid gardens. A bonus stop is a
stunning, waterfront garden
lovingly planted and maintained by
the master-gardener owners. Enjoy
lunch on the waterfront at tour
corporate headquarters, the Cavalier Golf
and Yacht Club. It was originally created
in 1927 to serve the recreational
needs of guests of the iconic, and
recently restored, Cavalier Hotel.

WILLIAMSBURG
On Tuesday, continue south down scenic Rt. 5 to Williamsburg for a
flower-filled look at six gardens. Visitors will delight in the variety of
landscapes — garden rooms, historic gardens, secret gardens and even
a farm garden will be open. Make sure to allow time for the escorted walking
tour of gardens in the Colonial area, as well as shopping at nearby
Merchant’s Square. We all appreciate green space more than ever these
days. Continue the inspiration with access to additional properties rarely
open to the public decorated with flower arrangements for indoor and
outdoor entertaining. Learn about the archaeology used to understand the
hidden ornamental gardens of the colorful John Curtis IV, a British
politician who served on the Governor’s Council in the 1700s.
Tour goers can see the newly
installed Revely Garden at William & Mary too. Its terraces, pathways
and plantings embody the GCV’s continuing commitment to the
restoration and preservation of historic
landscapes in Virginia.

YORKTOWN
On Wednesday, it is only a half hour
drive to the Yorktown tour. River views and village
gardens, with colonial and
revolutionary history woven throughout
the experience will make this tour of
private homes, landscapes and landmark
structures special. Tour goers will enjoy
access to properties located in the
charming village, one of the original
squares formed in Colonial Virginia in
1682, as well as one perched high on the
York River bluff, offering a stunning
vista. Horticulture enthusiasts will linger in
gardens surrounding a recently
remodeled 1920s bungalow. And history buffs won’t be able to resist the site
where the terms of surrender by General
Cornwallis to General Washington were
given to John Montresor. Filled with
small, quaint towns and abundant
wildlife. Middlesex is home to more than 10,000 residents. Many more
enjoy it as a vacation getaway. This
driving excursion includes properties
built as early as 1781 and
as recently as the 1990s near the
Piankatank and Rappahannock
Rivers. Nearby points of interest are
in the charming seaside towns of
Saluda, Deltaville and Urbanna.

EASTERN SHORE
Come by bridge or boat to explore the
gardens and history on Virginia’s
Eastern Shore on the final day
of Historic Garden Week 2021. Settled
just a few years after Capt. John Smith
landed at Jamestown, this narrow
peninsula is situated between the
Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic
Ocean. Perennial tour centerpiece, National Historic Landmark and
recipient of a Garden Club of Virginia

The Garden Club of Virginia is truly
grateful for the steadfast commitment
from our partners through their support
of Historic Garden Week 2020, despite
its cancellation. Special thanks to local
2020 House Roll sponsors and its
Guidebook advertisers, listed here alphabetically and by the East region.

2020 HONOR ROLL SPONSORS &
GUIDEBOOK ADVERTISERS

Abbi Art, Eastern Shore
Abbitt Realty, Hampton-Newport News
Abbitt Realty, Williamsburg
Aide’s Restaurant, Virginia Beach
Anderson-Wright, Olde Towne Portsmouth
Anderson’s Home and Garden, Hampton-Newport News
Ann and Bruce Stoiver, Gloucester
Art at the River, Yorktown
At Altitude, Eastern Shore
Atkinson Realty, Virginia Beach
Avenues by Bigley and Hoghie, Virginia Beach
Beach Gallery, Virginia Beach
cowork & bull, Virginia Beach
Bella Montie Restaurant & Enoteca, Virginia Beach
Berkshire Hathaway Home Services
towne Realty - Cheri Mulhawe, Williamsburg
Brent & Becky’s Bulbs, Gloucester
Broadwater Academy, Eastern Shore
Browder-Wills Inc., Eastern Shore
Camp Silver Beach — Camp YMCA, Eastern Shore
Carrell Blanton Ferris & Associates, Trey T. Parker, PLC, Williamsburg
Chatham Vineyards, Eastern Shore
Chincoteague Realty, Eastern Shore
Chincoteague Resort Vacations, Eastern Shore
Chippokes Plantation State Park, Surry
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg
Cricket, Hampton-Newport News
Dr. Peggy and Mr. John Montgomery,
Eurasia Cafe and Wine Bar, Virginia Beach
Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting
Gallery, Hampton-Newport News

Visit our website for a list of upcoming on-site events including
garden walks, educational talks, workshops and more!

Open Monday through Saturday • 9am to 4 pm
7900 Daffodil Lane • Gloucester, Virginia
(804) 693-3966 x108 • www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com

The Bulb Shoppe & Gardens
at Brent and Becky’s
Where Home and Gardens come Alive!

The Bulb Shoppe & Gardens
at Brent and Becky’s
Where Home and Gardens come Alive!

The Bulb Shoppe & Gardens
at Brent and Becky’s
Where Home and Gardens come Alive!

Gloucester, Virginia
One Historical Location
Two Exceptional Events
Annual Daffodil Show

Annual Daffodil Show

Annual Daffodil Show

Annual Daffodil Show

The 2021 Gloucester Daffodil Show

See our website for festival activities!

Photo Credit: Linda Tinsman

HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK FALL/WINTER MAGAZINE 2020 | 8
THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA’S FLOWER SHOWS INSPIRE THE WORLD-CLASS ARRANGEMENTS THAT DECORATE FEATURED TOUR PROPERTIES.

WE ESTIMATE OVER 1,000 ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE CREATED ESPECIALLY FOR HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK 2021.

Visit Olde Towne Portsmouth and Discover an American Treasure.

Olde Towne, the vibrant heart of Portsmouth where you find three centuries of history and architecture, will once again host Historic Garden Week in 2021. Don’t wait until then to discover the beautiful gardens, friendly shopkeepers, chef-owned restaurants, or the exciting performances and waterfront events that delight guests from all over the world. This federally designated historic district is your introduction to the fascinating sights of this quintessential southern community.

Visit Portsmouth, Virginia • 800-222-6787 Visitports.com

Honor Roll

HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK FALL/WINTER MAGAZINE 2020

Gloucester County Chamber of Commerce,
Gloucester Arts Festival,
Holiday Inn & Suites North Beach,
Marcia Long,
Four Corners Plaza

Newport News Tourism,
Main Street Preservation Trust,
Historic Cavalier Hotel,
McGuire Woods,
Mennowood Retirement Community,
McDonald Garden Center,
Ker Place — ES of VA Historical Society,
Klingel Landscape

Robertson-Parks & Recreation, Gloucester
Hampton Roads Academy,
Hampton-Newport News

Harbor Towne Enterprises, Inc.,
Eastern Shore
House’s Jewelers,
Hampton-Newport News

Haycox Financial Group, Virginia Beach

Historic Cavalier Hotel, Virginia Beach
Holiday Inn & Suites North Beach, Virginia Beach

Hubs Virginia Peanuts,
Old Towne Portsmouth

International Paper Company,
Middle Peninsula

L.J. Kellam Construction, L.L.C.,
Eastern Shore

LJ. Kellam Construction, L.L.C.,
Eastern Shore

Lake Prince Woods,
Old Towne Portsmouth

Lawn and Gardens Plus, Virginia Beach

Lemon Cabani, Virginia Beach

Low Tide Boutique, Middle Peninsula

Main Street Preservation Trust, Gloucester

Marcia Long, Williamsburg

McDonald Garden Center, Virginia Beach

McGuire Woods, Norfolk

Morrowood Retirement Community,
Hampton-Newport News

Misty Spong, Associate Broker, Berkshire Hathaway, Williamsburg

Mobjack Bay Marina, Gloucester-Mathews

Morgan & Edwards, Gloucester-Mathews

Newport News Tourism, Hampton-Newport News

North Street Market, Eastern Shore

Ocean Palm, Virginia Beach

Optimal Service Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, Williamsburg

Portsmouth Art & Cultural Center, Old Towne Portsmouth

PNC Bank, Eastern Shore

Portsmouth Community Concerts, Inc.,
Old Towne Portsmouth

Rene’ Y. Haeger Wenleed, Gloucester

Riverside Health System,
Eastern Shore

Rodgers & Burton, Middle Peninsula

Salon 3200 Inc., Virginia Beach

Seasons of Williamsburg, Williamsburg

Sharon Williams and Charles Beesen, Williamsburg

Siobhan Miller, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices/Realty, Inc., Virginia Beach

Southern Bank, Virginia Beach

Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts Foundation, Old Towne Portsmouth

TASTE, Virginia Beach

Taylor Bank, Eastern Shore

Terry Lacy Fine Art, Virginia Beach

The Canada Company, Old Towne Portsmouth

The Carney Center Cosmetic and Plastic Surgery, Virginia Beach

The City of Portsmouth

The Gardeners’ Workshop, Hampton-Newport News

The Hometown Advantage Real Estate Team, Olde Towne Portsmouth

The Marley Numbers Team, Williamsburg

The Shops at Carolina Furniture of Williamsburg, Williamsburg

The Skin Ranch and Trade Company, Virginia Beach

Towne Insurance,
Virginia Beach

Towne Insurance,
Virginia Beach

TowneBank, Hampton-Newport News

TowneBank, Olde Towne Portsmouth

TowneBank, Williamsburg

Trindco Premium Countertops,
Virginia Beach

Tribune Premium Countertops, Virginia Beach

VB Homes, Virginia Beach

Virginia Beach

Williamsburg

Olde Towne Portsmouth

Olde Towne Portsmouth

Hampton-Newport News

Hampton-Newport News
Over time, conservation-conscious garden club members continued to encourage others to reduce the use of floral foam. Several years ago I considered this problem again. As sometimes occurs, fate and flowers collided. When the Garden Club of Virginia invited the innovative, Leesburg Garden Club member and 28-year veteran floral designer, Holly Chapple to be a keynote speaker at its Fall Symposium, she demonstrated the use of her invention, a plastic “pillow” used to hold stems in place.

When a workshop offered the opportunity to try this alternative, I accepted the challenge. It worked well for a single arrangement, but is not cost effective if you are creating many arrangements for a large event.

There are many alternatives to floral foam which are environmentally friendly, including:

• Balled up chicken wire inserted into a container. The wire functions much the same as floral foam and allows multiple removals and changes which floral foam cannot always provide. A new crumple or more wire can be added for extra strength and support.

• Small glass pebbles are another environmentally-friendly option that permits a dash of color without the need to hide unsightly mechanics.

• Wire of different colors is available at most hardware stores and can be molded into different shapes.

• Bent sticks can be fastened together to provide the same functionality as wire, but with a natural look.

• A bright-color ed section of hose can be used in a container, with holes cut into it to hold flowers.

• A grid design, created in tape, covering the opening of a container, also works well.

Of course, grandmother’s flower frogs are still a good choice when arranging.
EAST REGION   |   FEATURES

GET INVOLVED
OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE IN NATURE — AND TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE — ABOUNDS IN VIRGINIA

BY MADELINE MAYHOOD, THE JAMES RIVER GARDEN CLUB

BC—Before Covid—seems like another lifetime. Today we manage stresses unimaginable a year ago. Even our vocabulary has changed. Who could have predicted that “masks” and “social distancing” and “virtual classroom” would become so familiar? But in the midst of the challenges and uncertainty, what has emerged as a priority is the need to do what matters…to identify priorities and find ways to engage.

For those of us inclined to make nature a priority, there is no better time to take up the torch. Taking action might be as simple as planting a perennial, arranging a fresh bouquet of flowers or joining or creating a likeminded community with similar priorities.

And making connections to nature makes a difference, especially now. A plethora of studies link well-being and overall health to exposure to nature; a safety precaution and to prevent crowds. Volunteer opportunities have been curtailed. Virtual experiences and websites have also ramped up, however, both Blandy Experimental Farm (the State Arboretum of Virginia in Boyce), and Norfolk Botanical Garden offer virtual garden tours and online resources, and the American Horticultural Society in Alexandria provides links to their gardening podcasts.

Garden clubs offer opportunities to connect with like-minded folk, all of whom share a common interest—in horticulture, plants, conservation and environmental issues. National Garden Clubs include over 150,000 members in thousands of garden clubs nationwide. The Virginia chapter of the NGC, the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, is headquartered at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond. The Garden Club of Virginia (GCV) includes nearly 3,500 members in 48 clubs throughout the state.

The GCV produces Historic Garden Week, America’s “largest open house” and one of the state’s most significant economic drivers involing tourism. It is held in late April when springtime in Virginia is at its peak. While orchestrated from its state headquarters in Richmond, each tour is planned and hosted locally by GCV members and volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering during Historic Garden Week 2021, provide your contact information and where you live to info@VAGardenWeek.org and your information will be forwarded to the appropriate tour team.

Supporting organizations whose missions matter is crucial in order for them to continue their important work. Beyond memberships, however, some may offer local opportunities to engage. The James River Association, for example, offers volunteer opportunities that help advocate for a clean river system. Spikenard Farm Bee Sanctuary in Floyd near Roanoke is committed to restoring the health and vitality of honeybees worldwide; an active volunteer corps helps on the bee farm. Capitol Teas offers ways for volunteers to engage in urban landscape revitalization and reclamation, and in downtown Richmond. In general, most volunteer opportunities are somewhat limited because of Covid, but many organizations are offering online webinars and recorded classes.

Plant societies are opportunities for plant geeks (and we say this with pride) to focus and learn more. The Virginia Native Plant Society offers educational opportunities, trips, meetings and programs. Eleven regional chapters comprise the VNPST and newcomers are welcome. Specific plant societies are worth exploring for membership and camaraderie, if you see a penchant for a particular plant, more than likely there is an associated society, be it a local chapter or national organization. The Daylilies, daffodils, hollies and roses, for example, can all be found among many local garden clubs. Some to explore include the Tidewater Daylily Society, the Virginia

THE HOMETOWN ADVANTAGE
REAL ESTATE TEAM

Representing Distinctive Properties Throughout Hampton Roads

The biggest advantage of being affiliated with a botanical garden though is the sheer access—to cutting edge horticulture and an entire community to whom nature matters. And they can be gateways to all sorts of plant resources. In times of Covid, many botanical gardens and arboreta are offering timed tickets as a safety precaution and to prevent crowds. Volunteer opportunities have been curtailed. Virtual experiences on websites have also ramped up, however, both Blandy Experimental Farm (the State Arboretum of Virginia in Boyce), and Norfolk Botanical Garden offer virtual garden tours and online resources, and the
EAST REGION

features

Two images of people holding flowers.

PRETTY ENOUGH TO EAT

COOKING WITH EDIBLE FLOWERS

BY CHEF REBECCA LUCARELLI

Growing up with a garden inspired me to use flowers in my cooking. From a young age, I remember picking chamomile heads to dry on my windowsill to make my own personal cup of tea. Experimental herb and tea blends became a regular practice for me. Not a new practice, it is an artful way to add beauty and flavor to a dish. Add edible flowers to your repertoire and enter a new culinary world.

REBECCA’S RULES

• Don’t cook with it unless you are positive it is safe to eat. Not all flowers are edible, some are poisonous.
• Eat only flowers that have been grown organically. Don’t eat anything provided by a florist or garden center.
• If you have asthma or allergies, it’s not worth the risk of making them worse. Don’t eat flowers.
• Remove the pistils and the stamens, only eat the petals, or the leaves, depending on the plant.

THESE ARE POISONOUS

By no means comprehensive, these common 18 plants can cause a host of unpleasant side effects to humans and pets alike, including vomiting and skin irritations. Don’t use them in the kitchen.

Daffodil  Hydrangea  Baby’s Breath
Mountain Laurel  Oleander
Alstroemeria  Tulip  Bleeding Heart
Calla Lily  Foxglove  Bloodroot
Iris  Delphinium  Lily of the Valley
Marigold  Morning Glory
Amaryllis  Yarrow

TOP 15 CULINARY FLOWERS AND HERBS

All easily grown in your own garden

Calendula

has a slightly bitter taste. Its petals are a bright orange-yellow, making it more often used for color than flavor.

Phlox, or Vicks, are related to violets, which are also edible. They have a mild, grassy flavor and are beautiful “sugared” and used to decorate cakes and cookies.
Mint is used medicinally but also as a flavoring in everything from ice cream to toothpaste.

Rose
Both the petals and the hips, the fruit of the pollinated flower, are edible. With an expected perfumy flavor, the hips are typically used to make jam.

Nasturtiums have a peppery flavor. Both the flowers and the attractive round leaves of this summer annual are edible, making it an easy and colorful addition to a salad.

Chives, and their allium family, have been used in cooking for thousands of years. This perennial herb with a small, lavender pom-pom at its tips has an oniony, but not overpowering, taste.

The Daylily, not a true lily at all, earned its name because each bloom lasts only one day. Buds are sweet tasting and nutritious; the root is used medicinally.

Sage, a Salvia and part of the mint family is an attractive, perennial herb that pairs well with chicken, mushrooms and other earthy-savory foods.

Bee Balm, otherwise known as red bergamot, is also a member of the mint family and is one of the few native American herbs. It can grow up to three feet, making it a great addition to the back of a perennial border, where it will attract pollinators. Flower petals are an attractive garnish.

Chamomile is most often associated with tea. Long used by herbalists to calm the stomach and the nerves, it has small daisy-like flowers and can take over an area in your garden if it’s properly placed in a sunny location.

Dill is part of the carrot family. This classic accompaniment to fish and to potatoes is very flexible. You can cook with the leaves, the flower and the seeds.

Lavender is best known for its perfume, but the English variety (Lavandula angustifolia) is delicious as a culinary flavoring. It’s strong, and can taste a little too much like soap if overused.

Lemon Verbena Pound Cake

3 EGGS
3 TABLESPOONS MILK
1 ½ TEASPOONS VANILLA
1 CUP ALMOND FLOUR
1 CUP SIFTED ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR
1 TEASPOON BAKING POWDER
¼ TEASPOON SALT
¾ CUP SUGAR
3 TABLESPOONS BUTTER, SOFTENED
13 TABLESPOONS MINCED LEMON VERBENA (ROSE PETALS OR LAVENDER ARE GOOD SUBSTITUTES)
1 TABLESPOON ORANGE ZEST

Whisk together eggs, milk and vanilla and set aside. With a whisk attachment, whisk dry ingredients in a separate mixing bowl. Add butter and half of the egg mixture to the dry ingredients. Mix on medium speed for one minute to allow the batter to aerate. Gradually add the rest of the egg mixture. Turn off the mixer and fold in the chopped flowers and orange zest by hand. Bake in a parchment-lined loaf pan at 350 degrees for about 50 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean. This is delicious on its own or served with freshly whipped cream.

Chef Rebecca Lucarelli is a graduate of the French Culinary Institute and works for the Food Network as its Purchasing and Events Coordinator. Born and raised in New York, she went to boarding school on a farm in Peterborough, New Hampshire, where a self-sustainable lifestyle was practiced and encouraged. She has grown and raising her own food challenged her view of it forever and was one of her motivations to make it her life’s work.
Plants need water and so do people. Skin looks healthy and youthful when hydrated because moisture plumps away fine lines and creates a lit-from-within look. A botanical and oil based night time regime will make you look like you drink a gallon of water a day. All recommended skincare products are natural, contain plant-derived ingredients and are easily available on the internet.

**Cleanse**

**TATCHA CAMILLIA CLEANSING OIL**
A 2-in-1 potion that cleans skin without drying it, the main ingredient in this product is Japanese Camellia oil. Lightweight, it leaves skin feeling soft, but not greasy. Rub gently all over your face and over eyelids with your hands to remove makeup and any dirt and grime accumulated over the course of your day. Then rinse off with warm water.

**Mask**

**TATA HARPER RESURFACING MASK**
All of Tata Harper’s products are created entirely with fresh, organic ingredients and are made in Vermont. The resurfacing mask contains willow bark as well as geranium, calendula and bergamot. These ingredients gently exfoliate skin to bring out its inner glow. Layer on this mask after washing your face, and leave on for 20 minutes. Meanwhile, make a relaxing cup of tea and take care of your face and yourself.

**Mist and Tone**

**CAUDALIE BEAUTY ELIXIR**
After rinsing off the mask, rehydrate and tone with this easy-to-use spray. Made with peppermint, rose and rosemary, it smells amazing while it freshens and cools skin. Pro-tip: store in your fridge and mist yourself on a hot summer day, or spray it on your face after wearing your Covid mask for an instant pick-me-up and to help with breakouts.

**Serum**

**PAI ROSEHIP OIL**
Many people are afraid of using oils in their skincare routine. There is a misconception they will clog pores and cause acne. Roséhip oil is extremely regenerative, and is perfect for getting rid of dark spots and acne scars. Pat this serum on your face, don’t rub.

**Moisturize**

**WELEDA SKIN FOOD**
This lotion is extremely thick and can be used all over your body, not just to nourish facial skin. It might seem greasy upon initial application, but will leave your skin feeling soft and healthy after it is fully absorbed. For those who already have oily skin, there is a lite version, or it can be thinned by mixing with the Rosehip oil. Containing both chamomile and calendula, it helps to soothe the skin at the end of a long day.

**Lips**

**AESOP ROSEHIP SEED LIP CREAM**
After these five steps, don’t skip your lips. Give them some attention too. This product has a surprising texture. As its name states, it’s more of a cream than a balm. It smells amazing because it’s made of rosehip oil and ylang ylang; both hydrate and soften lips.

Halle is a recent graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City, the only university in the nation that offers a degree in Cosmetic Marketing. She is a self-described skincare junkie. One of her beauty goals is to have skin so healthy it doesn’t require makeup. With this evening routine, she’s achieved that.

---

**FLOWER POWER**

**A BOTANICALLY INSPIRED ROUTINE FOR GLOWY SKIN**

BY HALLE RIVERS MILLER

**THE VILLAGE AT WOODS EDGE**

Enjoy the little things. For 30 years, The Village at Woods Edge has delivered unmatched service and dedication to our residents. We take pride in our ability to carry the burden of everyday chores, allowing for more time to cultivate your dream garden. Experience the maintenance-free lifestyle of The Village at Woods Edge and discover how life’s little pleasures make the biggest impact.

Visit VillageAtWoodsEdge.com or call 757-300-0723 to schedule an in-person or virtual tour of our beautiful community today!

---

For over 20 years, Southern Trust Mortgage has served over 65,000 families along our coastal lines from Virginia to Florida. As a modern mortgage lender, we are committed to making the home buying experience Simple, Creative and Consistent.

Whether you are purchasing or refinancing, we are here to guide you through it. Contact us today!

(800) 748-2147

4433 Corporation Lane, Suite 300
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462
WWW.SOUTHERNTRUST.COM

---

**Cottages | Apartments | AL | MC**
RAIN GARDENS

BY KAYE MOOMAW, HILLSIDE GARDEN CLUB

Since so much rain has fallen across the state this year, Virginians may be wondering how to decrease the areas in their landscapes that now look like streams. One way to channel runoff is by building a rain garden. These beautiful additions to the landscape can provide numerous benefits to your local environment.

When hard surface areas like pavement or sidewalks are replaced with mixed, naturalistic plantings, the speed at which water flows over the ground and into stormwater drains and natural lakes and streams is decreased.

Slowing the water allows it to infiltrate the soil and shed some of its toxins. Much of the stormwater is percolated into the soil through small passageways left from both microbiotic life and the root growth of various plants and trees. Hard surfaces retain heat and give off warmth.

BENEFITS

Cooler Yards
Rain gardens can help make your yard cooler in the summer.

Less Maintenance
Moreover, rain gardens reduce the need for fertilizer, water and maintenance while increasing the habitat for wildlife.

Fewer Mosquitoes
Rain Gardens are designed to mimic the natural water cycle so that absorption, transpiration and evaporation in that area can be completed in 72 hours. This prevents mosquitoes from breeding.

A rain garden should be sited 10 feet from the foundation of a building, and should not be located in a place where water is already pooling. It has six elements:

• A grass buffer strip that serves to slow the flow of water as it enters
• Trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals that stabilize and use the water and tolerate “wet feet”
• Mulch to keep it the garden moist
• A soil layer collects water and nutrients to sustain the plantings
• A pond area or depression no more than six or eight inches deeper than the ground level around it for short-term water retention
• A small, six-inch berm will act as a dam to facilitate pooling and prevent water from running straight through the rain garden

RAIN GARDENS
BY KAYE MOOMAW, HILLSIDE GARDEN CLUB

Since so much rain has fallen across the state this year, Virginians may be wondering how to decrease the areas in their landscapes that now look like streams. One way to channel runoff is by building a rain garden. These beautiful additions to the landscape can provide numerous benefits to your local environment.

When hard surface areas like pavement or sidewalks are replaced with mixed, naturalistic plantings, the speed at which water flows over the ground and into stormwater drains and natural lakes and streams is decreased.

Slowing the water allows it to infiltrate the soil and shed some of its toxins. Much of the stormwater is percolated into the soil through small passageways left from both microbiotic life and the root growth of various plants and trees. Hard surfaces retain heat and give off warmth.

BENEFITS

Cooler Yards
Rain gardens can help make your yard cooler in the summer.

Less Maintenance
Moreover, rain gardens reduce the need for fertilizer, water and maintenance while increasing the habitat for wildlife.

Fewer Mosquitoes
Rain Gardens are designed to mimic the natural water cycle so that absorption, transpiration and evaporation in that area can be completed in 72 hours. This prevents mosquitoes from breeding.

A rain garden should be sited 10 feet from the foundation of a building, and should not be located in a place where water is already pooling. It has six elements:

• A grass buffer strip that serves to slow the flow of water as it enters
• Trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals that stabilize and use the water and tolerate “wet feet”
• Mulch to keep it the garden moist
• A soil layer collects water and nutrients to sustain the plantings
• A pond area or depression no more than six or eight inches deeper than the ground level around it for short-term water retention
• A small, six-inch berm will act as a dam to facilitate pooling and prevent water from running straight through the rain garden
HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK FALL/WINTER MAGAZINE 2020

70

DISTINCTIVE HOOD CHOICES
A focal point for the kitchen, range hoods make distinctive, decorative statements. Stainless steel to custom metals including those with a wide variety of finishes, textures, and realistic looking stone choices. Locally, we are seeing neutrals and varying shades of grey, white and taupe as popular choices to complement clean and modern décor.

By Marvin Daniel

PHOTOS BY KIP DAWKINS

SHAKER STYLE IS VERSATILE
Shaker style cabinets continue as a favorite choice for kitchen design. The straight lines, squared edges and simple undecorated style goes beyond its original farm-house roots and is compatible with traditional, transitional and contemporary architecture and décor. Shaker style cabinets are characterized by a five-piece door with a recessed center panel. Cabinets can be personalized with material, finish color, ornamental hardware and the addition of beveled or beaded profiles.

POPS OF COLOR ADD INTEREST
While white (and/or gray) kitchen remain a timeless classic, designers are using unexpected pops of color to keep the space from being sterile. Colored cabinetry is being seen on islands, hutches, and even one full wall, but not typically used throughout the whole kitchen. Appliance makers are expanding finish options beyond stainless steel to include white and matte black with an array of standard and custom colors available for luxury performance ranges like La Cornue. Warm brass, bronze metals, and painted fixtures continue to be used in lighting and hardware to add warmth to cool palettes. Wood is back in a big way with natural finishes and/or in painted cabinetry to add interest.

INTEGRATED APPLIANCES FOR A SEAMLESS LOOK
Designed to fit flush at counter depth and coordinate with custom kitchen cabinetry, integrated appliances have matching cabinetry panels that disappear into surrounding cabinetry offering a clean, seamless aesthetic and streamlined effect.

SMART TECHNOLOGY IN THE KITCHEN SIZZLES
Expect appliances to incorporate more technology with the ability to sync with a wireless Bluetooth device offering any number of remote settings from your phone. There are dedicated applications designed to perform and monitor cooking, cooling and cleaning the kitchen. Also, trends are finger touch and swipe controls that will ultimately replace knobs. Look for more mainstream adoption of vacuum sealers that are designed to keep food fresh longer by significantly slowing down the aging and degrading process and are a must for sous vide or LTLT cooking. (LTLT means low temperature/long time and sous vide cooking is the process of sealing food in an airtight container—usually a vacuum sealed bag—and then cooking that food in temperature-controlled water.) Convection steam ovens are becoming a popular choice as they are fast, powerful, versatile and a healthy way to cook. On the horizon, flash freezers and blast chillers will be making their appearance in home kitchens.

Marvin Daniel is a principal at KDW Home, and not only loves design but also is an avid and accomplished cook. KDW Home offers kitchen, bath and custom cabinetry designs. Design studios in Richmond and Virginia Beach at kalvhome.com.

A CONNECTION TO THE OUTDOORS
Designers are bringing the outside in with solutions to add light and include natural materials in the space. The once standard “small window over the sink” is being replaced with much larger windows (and sometimes a full bank of windows). Natural materials including stone and wood are incorporated to add warmth and texture to any space.

QUARTZ® REIGNS SUPREME
Designers are including quartz as a surface option in addition to traditional marble, granite and other natural stone countertops. The fabrication of Quartz® is a man-made process using a mixture of raw materials that is highly compressed and boasts a durable, fade resistant, non-porous stain resistant surface that is easy to maintain. Today’s quartz offerings include a wide variety of colors, textures and realistic looking stone choices. Locally, we are seeing neutrals and varying shades of grey, white and taupe as popular choices to complement clean and modern décor.

STORAGE SOLUTIONS DESIGNED FROM THE INSIDE OUT
Cabinetry offering a clean, seamless aesthetic and streamlined effect. Integrated appliances have matching cabinetry panels that disappear into surrounding cabinetry offering a clean, seamless aesthetic and streamlined effect.

ISLAND LOVE CONTINUES
The island remains a focal point of the kitchen, a central gathering place for preparation, seating and a surface that serves multiple workspaces—sink and also under-the-counter appliances. For larger spaces, clients are opting for double islands and an easy way to separate meal preparation and family gatherings while expanding function and traffic flow.

A CONNECTION TO THE OUTDOORS
Designers are bringing the outside in with solutions to add light and include natural materials in the space. The once standard “small window over the sink” is being replaced with much larger windows (and sometimes a full bank of windows). Natural materials including stone and wood are incorporated to add warmth and texture to any space.

SHAKER STYLE IS VERSATILE
Shaker style cabinets continue as a favorite choice for kitchen design. The straight lines, squared edges and simple undecorated style goes beyond its original farm-house roots and is compatible with traditional, transitional and contemporary architecture and décor. Shaker style cabinets are characterized by a five-piece door with a recessed center panel. Cabinets can be personalized with material, finish color, ornamental hardware and the addition of beveled or beaded profiles.

POPS OF COLOR ADD INTEREST
While white (and/or gray) kitchen remain a timeless classic, designers are using unexpected pops of color to keep the space from being sterile. Colored cabinetry is being seen on islands, hutches, and even one full wall, but not typically used throughout the whole kitchen. Appliance makers are expanding finish options beyond stainless steel to include white and matte black with an array of standard and custom colors available for luxury performance ranges like La Cornue. Warm brass, bronze metals, and painted fixtures continue to be used in lighting and hardware to add warmth to cool palettes. Wood is back in a big way with natural finishes and/or in painted cabinetry to add interest.

INTEGRATED APPLIANCES FOR A SEAMLESS LOOK
Designed to fit flush at counter depth and coordinate with custom kitchen cabinetry, integrated appliances have matching cabinetry panels that disappear into surrounding cabinetry offering a clean, seamless aesthetic and streamlined effect.

SMART TECHNOLOGY IN THE KITCHEN SIZZLES
Expect appliances to incorporate more technology with the ability to sync with a wireless Bluetooth device offering any number of remote settings from your phone. There are dedicated applications designed to perform and monitor cooking, cooling and cleaning the kitchen. Also, trends are finger touch and swipe controls that will ultimately replace knobs. Look for more mainstream adoption of vacuum sealers that are designed to keep food fresh longer by significantly slowing down the aging and degrading process and are a must for sous vide or LTLT cooking. (LTLT means low temperature/long time and sous vide cooking is the process of sealing food in an airtight container—usually a vacuum sealed bag—and then cooking that food in temperature-controlled water.) Convection steam ovens are becoming a popular choice as they are fast, powerful, versatile and a healthy way to cook. On the horizon, flash freezers and blast chillers will be making their appearance in home kitchens.

Marvin Daniel is a principal at KDW Home, and not only loves design but also is an avid and accomplished cook. KDW Home offers kitchen, bath and custom cabinetry designs. Design studios in Richmond and Virginia Beach at kalvhome.com.

A CONNECTION TO THE OUTDOORS
Designers are bringing the outside in with solutions to add light and include natural materials in the space. The once standard “small window over the sink” is being replaced with much larger windows (and sometimes a full bank of windows). Natural materials including stone and wood are incorporated to add warmth and texture to any space.

QUARTZ® REIGNS SUPREME
Designers are including quartz as a surface option in addition to traditional marble, granite and other natural stone countertops. The fabrication of Quartz® is a man-made process using a mixture of raw materials that is highly compressed and boasts a durable, fade resistant, non-porous stain resistant surface that is easy to maintain. Today’s quartz offerings include a wide variety of colors, textures and realistic looking stone choices. Locally, we are seeing neutrals and varying shades of grey, white and taupe as popular choices to complement clean and modern décor.

STORAGE SOLUTIONS DESIGNED FROM THE INSIDE OUT
Cabinetry offering a clean, seamless aesthetic and streamlined effect. Integrated appliances have matching cabinetry panels that disappear into surrounding cabinetry offering a clean, seamless aesthetic and streamlined effect.

ISLAND LOVE CONTINUES
The island remains a focal point of the kitchen, a central gathering place for preparation, seating and a surface that serves multiple workspaces—sink and also under-the-counter appliances. For larger spaces, clients are opting for double islands and an easy way to separate meal preparation and family gatherings while expanding function and traffic flow.

A CONNECTION TO THE OUTDOORS
Designers are bringing the outside in with solutions to add light and include natural materials in the space. The once standard “small window over the sink” is being replaced with much larger windows (and sometimes a full bank of windows). Natural materials including stone and wood are incorporated to add warmth and texture to any space.

SHAKER STYLE IS VERSATILE
Shaker style cabinets continue as a favorite choice for kitchen design. The straight lines, squared edges and simple undecorated style goes beyond its original farm-house roots and is compatible with traditional, transitional and contemporary architecture and décor. Shaker style cabinets are characterized by a five-piece door with a recessed center panel. Cabinets can be personalized with material, finish color, ornamental hardware and the addition of beveled or beaded profiles.

POPS OF COLOR ADD INTEREST
While white (and/or gray) kitchen remain a timeless classic, designers are using unexpected pops of color to keep the space from being sterile. Colored cabinetry is being seen on islands, hutches, and even one full wall, but not typically used throughout the whole kitchen. Appliance makers are expanding finish options beyond stainless steel to include white and matte black with an array of standard and custom colors available for luxury performance ranges like La Cornue. Warm brass, bronze metals, and painted fixtures continue to be used in lighting and hardware to add warmth to cool palettes. Wood is back in a big way with natural finishes and/or in painted cabinetry to add interest.

INTEGRATED APPLIANCES FOR A SEAMLESS LOOK
Designed to fit flush at counter depth and coordinate with custom kitchen cabinetry, integrated appliances have matching cabinetry panels that disappear into surrounding cabinetry offering a clean, seamless aesthetic and streamlined effect.

SMART TECHNOLOGY IN THE KITCHEN SIZZLES
Expect appliances to incorporate more technology with the ability to sync with a wireless Bluetooth device offering any number of remote settings from your phone. There are dedicated applications designed to perform and monitor cooking, cooling and cleaning the kitchen. Also, trends are finger touch and swipe controls that will ultimately replace knobs. Look for more mainstream adoption of vacuum sealers that are designed to keep food fresh longer by significantly slowing down the aging and degrading process and are a must for sous vide or LTLT cooking. (LTLT means low temperature/long time and sous vide cooking is the process of sealing food in an airtight container—usually a vacuum sealed bag—and then cooking that food in temperature-controlled water.) Convection steam ovens are becoming a popular choice as they are fast, powerful, versatile and a healthy way to cook. On the horizon, flash freezers and blast chillers will be making their appearance in home kitchens.

Marvin Daniel is a principal at KDW Home, and not only loves design but also is an avid and accomplished cook. KDW Home offers kitchen, bath and custom cabinetry designs. Design studios in Richmond and Virginia Beach at kalvhome.com.

A CONNECTION TO THE OUTDOORS
Designers are bringing the outside in with solutions to add light and include natural materials in the space. The once standard “small window over the sink” is being replaced with much larger windows (and sometimes a full bank of windows). Natural materials including stone and wood are incorporated to add warmth and texture to any space.

QUARTZ® REIGNS SUPREME
Designers are including quartz as a surface option in addition to traditional marble, granite and other natural stone countertops. The fabrication of Quartz® is a man-made process using a mixture of raw materials that is highly compressed and boasts a durable, fade resistant, non-porous stain resistant surface that is easy to maintain. Today’s quartz offerings include a wide variety of colors, textures and realistic looking stone choices. Locally, we are seeing neutrals and varying shades of grey, white and taupe as popular choices to complement clean and modern décor.

STORAGE SOLUTIONS DESIGNED FROM THE INSIDE OUT
Cabinetry offering a clean, seamless aesthetic and streamlined effect. Integrated appliances have matching cabinetry panels that disappear into surrounding cabinetry offering a clean, seamless aesthetic and streamlined effect.

ISLAND LOVE CONTINUES
The island remains a focal point of the kitchen, a central gathering place for preparation, seating and a surface that serves multiple workspaces—sink and also under-the-counter appliances. For larger spaces, clients are opting for double islands and an easy way to separate meal preparation and family gatherings while expanding function and traffic flow.

A CONNECTION TO THE OUTDOORS
Designers are bringing the outside in with solutions to add light and include natural materials in the space. The once standard “small window over the sink” is being replaced with much larger windows (and sometimes a full bank of windows). Natural materials including stone and wood are incorporated to add warmth and texture to any space.
STAUNTON
Begin your week in Staunton, one of Virginia’s premier historic preservation and beautification success stories. Get your Saturday started with a scrumptious pastry freshly baked at one of several locally owned coffee shops downtown, then enjoy plein air artists from Beverley Street Studio School working in tour gardens during the morning. Browse scenic parks, including Gypsy Hill’s 214 acres, galleries and gardens designed by renowned landscape architect Charles Gillette on this walking tour showcasing the downtown area.

ALBEMARLE COUNTY GARDENS
On Sunday, drive 40 miles northwest along Interstate 64 to Albemarle County’s tour of private gardens in Charlottesville. On quiet, leafy streets surrounding the University of Virginia, some homeowners have transformed typical city lots into garden oases. Join the local Garden Club of Virginia (GCV) clubs on this intimate tour of three such gardens, where homeowner-gardeners have indulged their passion for unusual plants and stunning specimen trees, making creative use of garden spaces. Each property is owned by a GCV member, and has been developed over the years to showcase specific gardening talents and interests. At a time when gardens have become valued spaces for socializing, and offer quiet sanctuary to soothe our souls, tour goers will find inspiration in these city sanctuaries.

MONTPELIER
Monday offers multiple choices. A memorial to the fourth president of the United States, James Madison, and his wife, Dolley, and the enslaved community who lived there, the main house of Montpelier has undergone a nationally acclaimed restoration to its original 1820 design. Past Historic Garden Week proceeds enabled the Garden Club of Virginia to assist in restoring the two-acre formal terraced Annie duPont Garden in the early 1990s. Breathtaking in any season, a succession of perennials including iris and Oriental poppies, makes it especially spectacular in April. In addition, visitors can explore the old-growth forest, current archaeological excavations, eight miles of scenic walking trails and the Gilmore Cabin.

Battlefields, vineyards and bed & breakfasts characterize the bucolic towns of the Shenandoah Valley. With significant academic institutions located in or nearby, visitors can enjoy unique shopping and sites straight from history class.
MONTICELLO
Monticello is another nearby history-focused option. Designed by and home to Thomas Jefferson, founder of the University of Virginia, author of the Declaration of Independence, and third president of the United States, its winding walk flower border was restored by the Garden Club of Virginia in 1939-41. Nearly 75 years later, proceeds from Historic Garden Week helped restore “Kitchen Road,” the functional and visual link between Mulberry Row the industrial hub of the plantation, and the main house.

This extensive project included replanting trees according to Jefferson’s original design. A complication, man, Jefferson enslaved over 600 people throughout his life. Learn about the men, women and children who built Monticello, planted his crops, tended his gardens and who helped run his household and raise his children.

Don’t miss the Saunders–Monticello Trail featuring deep ravines and spectacular views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The forested trail winds its way toward Monticello and back in a manageable four miles accessible to those in wheelchairs.

JAMES RIVER STATE PARK
James River State Park features rolling grasslands, quiet forests and beautiful views, as well as three miles of shoreline along the James River, the longest in Virginia. It offers a relaxing break between tours. Visitors can bike, hike, canoe, kayak or camp on the banks of the river or at Branch Pond. As part of its Centennial project with Virginia State Parks, grants from the GCV made possible native landscaping and a pollinator garden at the park.

LYNCHBURG
Take scenic I-81 southwest about an hour to Lynchburg on Tuesday. Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Lynchburg is home to timeless, classic architecture, tree-lined avenues and a rich history of preserving the area’s celebrated homes and gardens.

This self-driving tour features unique properties that showcase personal commitments to preservation, sustainability, and environmentalism. Curated by aesthetic homeowners who have blended traditional lines with modern sensibilities, the tour includes secluded gardens brimming with spring blooms. Visitors will appreciate the owners’ dedication to native plants, careful planning and attention to scale and proportion.

ANNE SPENCER GARDEN
While in Lynchburg, don’t miss the Anne Spencer Garden, a Virginia Historic Landmark. Many nationally known Civil Rights leaders and prominent African Americans were guests of the Spencers during their lifetime. Anne loved both poetry and gardening. Beginning in 1957, her garden was restored to its 1957 appearance by the Hillside Garden Club, a GCV member club, which continues its routine maintenance. The garden has twice won the Common Wealth Award from the Garden Club of Virginia, a grant program supporting projects in the areas of conservation, beautification, horticulture, preservation and education.

HARRISONBURG
On Wednesday, head north towards Harrisonburg, home of James Madison University and its Arboretum and Botanical Gardens featuring native plants of the mid-Appalachians. Located in the middle of scenic mountain ranges, Harrisonburg, also known as ‘Rocktown,’ boasts local food and libations, arts and culture, and roots that anchor it to the Shenandoah Valley landscape. Starting at the Cross Keys Vineyard as tour headquarters, visitors will enjoy access to private properties that showcase both traditional and contemporary visions on this self-driving tour.

NATURAL BRIDGE
Thursday and Friday offer another short respite from organized touring with time to explore the Natural Bridge and its surroundings. Once settled by the Monacan Indians and surveyed by George Washington, this “Natural Wonder of the New World” is carved out of limestone and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The earliest written account of the bridge was in 1742 by the explorer John Peter Sallings, who settled in the region. In 1774, Thomas Jefferson successfully applied for a land grant from King George III that included the 215-foot-tall bridge. In the late 18th century it became a popular tourist destination. For every first Historic Garden Week Tour in 1929, the site became the 37th state park in Virginia’s system in 2016.

GOSHEN PASS
Located just 12 miles north of Lexington is a 3.7-mile gorge along the Maury River with connections to the Garden Club of Virginia’s back to its earliest days. The GCV has championed the cause to maintain the pristine beauty of Goshen Pass, Virginia’s oldest natural area preserve, starting in the 1920s, fighting against development almost every decade since. Today, there are no electric power dams or roads running through it.

LEXINGTON
Spend the last day of Historic Garden Week 2021 exploring the delightful college town of Lexington. Meander through garden gates old and new allowing access to private properties showcasing tended gardens and formed spaces that are as beautiful and productive as ever. Original homes to pave its streets, iconic red bricks were eventually moved to form distinctive sidewalks throughout Lexington’s well-preserved historic district. Mountain vistas, secret gardens, boutiques and galleries await.
South River Irrigation, Charlottesville
St. Anne’s-Belfield School, Charlottesville
Summit Square, Staunton
Sunnyside Communities, Harrisonburg
The Blackburn Inn, Staunton
The Lurie Hoffaday Shop, Orange County
The Shops at Stonefield, Albemarle-Charlottesville
The Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library & Museum, Staunton
Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello, Albemarle County
Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest, Lynchburg
Van Yehes Tree Company, Charlottesville
Virginia Garden Supply, Lynchburg
Virginia National Bank, Charlottesville
Westminster Canterbury, Lynchburg
Windridge Landscaping & Hardscaping, Charlottesville
Wine & Country, Charlottesville
Woodberry Forest School, Madison

Come Explore the Art of Entertaining Seasonal collections for the home and garden

Come visit us at: 101 West Main Street Charlottesville, Virginia 434-817-7993
Or purchase our Caspari products online at: CaspariOnline.com

TICKETS FOR HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK 2021 AVAILABLE ONLINE BEGINNING MID-JANUARY AT VAGARDENWEEK.ORG

What do you want to do today? Before retirement, too many days felt too much alike. Getting stuck in the rut of routine meant rarely branching out to experience all that life has to offer. Now, there’s no limit to what you can do, where you can go or how alive you can feel in the heart of Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley and beyond. Discover our community of culture, with a love of learning, arts and wellness.

KENDAL at Lexington 1-800-976-8303 info@kalex.kendal.org kalex.kendal.org
A Not-for-Profit Life Plan Community serving Older Adults in the Quaker Tradition.
PLANT

- Plant tulips now through December. Properly planted bulbs will rebloom for three to four years.
- You still have time to plant lily bulbs. Also, water and mulch them.
- Plant deciduous trees and shrubs after they have gone dormant.
- Lilacs may still be planted. Add wood ashes and bone meal to the soil mixture in the hole.

PRUNE

- Boxwood requires little or no pruning except when a branch outgrows the general habit of the plant or to restore overgrown plants. Thinning is a type of pruning that can reduce the size of the shrub. November or December is the best time to do this as long as the temperature is above freezing. This is most important for English boxwood as the interior leaf shoots die without adequate light or air circulation. Do this late November and use cuttings for holiday decorations.
- Limit pruning of early spring blooming shrubs and trees to the removal of awkward, damaged or diseased branches. Major pruning of these shrubs should be done in the spring after they bloom.

FERTILIZE

- A late fall application of 10-6-4 to boxwood will promote root growth and provide the best results. Because boxwood is shallow-rooted, surface application is best. Broadcast fertilizer over well mulched plants at the drip line.
- Feed deciduous trees and shrubs after they are fully dormant. Remember, roots grow during the dormant season.
- Fertilize wisteria after the leaves have fallen. Never fertilize during the spring and summer. This will cause more growth and less bloom. Always plant in full sun.

MULCH

- Apply two to four inches of mulch after the ground freezes. Good mulch materials are rotted sawdust, straw, pine needles and ground up oak leaves (use your lawn mower for this).

CHORES

- Turn off garden faucets. Drain hoses after disconnecting them from the spigot.
- Cut the lawn for the last time about two inches high.
[DECEMBER]

**PRUNE**
- Early in the month prune roses to mid-thigh. This prevents “wind whipping” and bushes bending during the winter.

**CHORES**
- Clean old leaves and twigs out of boxwood, particularly in the center. Disease and pest control can be avoided with proper sanitation. Soak roots of boxwood well before winter freezes the ground.

**TIPS**
- If you decorate with a live tree over the holidays, consider decorating it for birds after it is discarded. Hang with suet, seed containers and pine cones spread with peanut butter. An alternative is to cut branches from discarded trees and lay them over bulb or perennial beds which protects your plantings from heaving in the cold weather.

[JANUARY]

**PLANT**
- If the ground is frozen and you didn’t have time to plant spring flowering bulbs during the fall months, lay black plastic over the area you want to plant. With sunshine it should thaw in a couple of days. Blooms will be less showy the first spring, but more spectacular the following year.

**PRUNE**
- Beginning in January and through March, “tip prune” crepe myrtles for cosmetic purposes to encourage large clusters of blooms in the summer.
- Most deciduous trees can be pruned now while the leaves are off, with the exception of spring-flowering trees, which should be pruned after blooming.

**FERTILIZE**
- Put wood ashes from your fireplace on the vegetable garden, roses, lilacs, poonies, clematis and daffodils. This adds lime and potash to the soil. Do not use on acid-loving plants, such as azaleas and rhododendrons.
- Feed daylilies with 10-10-10 until late February or early March.

**CHORES**
- If you didn’t test your soil in the fall, now is the time to do so. Soil should be tested every three to four years.
- Remove heavy snow from evergreens by tapping with a broom. Let ice covering melt naturally.
- Feed the birds suet and seed and provide a water source in your garden.

**TIPS**
- Use bird seed instead of salt on icy driveways and sidewalks. Salt will damage plantings and lawns.
- Cut back ornamental grasses.
**[MARCH]**

- **PLANT**
  - This is the best time to plant and transplant boxwood. Don’t plant too close around it as they are shallow rooted.
  - Plant new roses in properly prepared beds, selecting a site which receives at least six hours of daily sunlight.
  - When planting new shrubs, dig holes the depth of the root ball and two times the width.
  - Dogwoods and magnolias are cold sensitive and best planted in late March.
  - Hostas, daylilies, astilbe and coral bells can all be divided before new growth begins. New perennials can be planted in early spring.

- **FERTILIZE**
  - Peonies do not require fertilizer for two or three years after planting. Then apply a trowel full of bone meal each spring before blooming in a band six to eight inches from the crown of the plant. Work into the soil, being careful not to disturb the roots. If staking is necessary, place the stakes before the plants fill out.
  - Perennials do well with 5-10-5 around plants in March, repeating at six week intervals with another treatment at the end of the summer for late bloomers.

- **MULCH**
  - Allow mulch to protect plants during late cold snaps.

- **CHORES**
  - Clean old leaves and twigs out of boxwood, particularly in the center. Disease and pest damage can be avoided with proper sanitation.
  - If you didn’t check the lawnmower and other lawn-care equipment last fall, now is the time to do it.

---

**[FEBRUARY]**

- **PLANT**
  - Pansies if you didn’t already add them to your garden in the fall.
  - Buddleia and Russian sage to within six inches of the ground.
  - Prune late spring and early summer bloomers, such as spireas and abelia now and into March, before growth starts.
  - In late February or early March, ornamental grasses should be cut down to six inches before new growth begins.
  - Cut or mow linope to height of three inches.
  - Cut back Clematis paniculata (Sweet autumn) to 12 inches. Blooming in September, it is long lived and can grow 25 feet in one season. Cut Clematis Jackmani to 18 inches in early spring. It comes up again from the roots and remaining stems.
  - Prune hydrangea arborescens (Annabelle) to the ground in late winter and fertilize lightly. It blooms on new shoots off old wood.
  - Hydrangea paniculata (Grandiflora or PeeGee) which blooms in late summer should be pruned heavily now or in early spring.

- **FERTILIZE**
  - Feed iris bone meal and top with wood ash.
  - Circle herbs with lime, especially lavender.
  - As soon as daffodils emerge, use a handful of 5-10-10 around each clump of bulbs, and broadcast wood ash.
  - Feed trees at the drip line.

- **TIPS**
  - In planning your perennial garden for the spring consider the following plants, which resist heat and humidity: yarrow, salvia and Joe Pye weed. Plants that resist drought are rudbeckia, coreopsis and steel globe thistle.
When searching for the best things in life – choice matters. Explore life after 55 with Sunnyside, an active Life Plan community, where you will find unique cottages, garden homes, villas and apartments on an award-winning campus with a wellness culture that places us in the TOP 5 in North America.

3935 Sunnyside Drive
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
540.568.8411 or 800.237.2257
www.sunnysidecommunities.com

When searching for the best things in life – choice matters. Explore life after 55 with Sunnyside, an active Life Plan community, where you will find unique cottages, garden homes, villas and apartments on an award-winning campus with a wellness culture that places us in the TOP 5 in North America.

3935 Sunnyside Drive
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
540.568.8411 or 800.237.2257
www.sunnysidecommunities.com

WEST REGION | features

MOUNT SHARON
A rare and unique opportunity to own one of America’s most important private gardens complete with classic c.1937 brick Georgian Revival style home designed by Louis Baudel LaFarge. Great schools, Washington DC, and local airport are all nearby and add to making Mount Sharon, on 77 rolling acres, a wonderful place to live in the Virginia countryside.
www.MountSharonVa.com

EDGEMONT
Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, 15 miles south of Charlottesville, is this c.1786 masterpiece called Edgemont—a home whose design is reputed to be the only remaining private residence attributed to Thomas Jefferson. Sited on 572 rolling acres with formal gardens, mature hardwood forest, guest house, pool and tennis court.
www.HistoricEdgemont.com

Steve McLean
503 Faulconer Drive | Charlottesville, VA 22903
office: 434.981.1863 | email: smclean@mcleanfaulconer.com
www.mcleanfaulconer.com

GREAT GARDENS DESERVE GREAT WINE & FOOD
Pippin Hill’s Kitchen Garden and new greenhouse are ripe with robust flowers, textures, and color. Our certified horticulturists Diane Burns, Head Gardener, and Selina DeBruijn, Assistant Gardener, welcome you during Historic Garden Week. Come for a tour; stay to savor how our Tasting Room transforms garden bounty into culinary delight.

PIPPIN HILL FARM & VINEYARDS
5022 Plank Road, North Garden, VA 22959 • 434.202.8963 • pippinhillfarm.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK 2021 VISIT VAGARDENWEEK.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK 2021 VISIT VAGARDENWEEK.ORG
“WHAT WOULD YOU PICK IF YOU COULD ONLY GROW 25 VARIETIES OF DAFFODILS?”

BY JANET HICKMAN,
Past GCV Daffodil Chairman and member of the Hillside Garden Club

That was the question asked of the members of the American Daffodil Society (ADS) recently. If you are new to daffodil cultivation, 25 varieties may seem like a lot, but many daffodil enthusiasts grow hundreds or thousands of daffodils, so this was a challenging query.

The answers form a list of tried-and-true varieties favored by ADS members, with the clear favorite being ‘Rapture,’ a mainstay in the early spring garden and a frequent winner in daffodil shows. Blooms of this charmer are clear yellow with a long straight cup and strongly reflexed petals.

The blooms of daffodils can last up to a month and are great in arrangements. Symbolic for new beginnings, which we all are craving, daffodils are the “flower” for December birthdays and ten-year wedding anniversaries.

‘Rapture’ received significantly more recommendations from serious daffodil fans than any other variety on the rest of the list.

From mammograms to advanced cancer treatments, the new UVA Breast Care Center offers the full spectrum of breast care services — all in one convenient Pantops location with abundant free parking.

Our team is proud to offer expert care and the latest technology in a newly renovated space designed wholly for breast care patients, including:

- Breast Imaging/mammography
- Breast medical oncology
- Breast surgery clinic
- Bone density
- Flourish Positive Image Boutique
- Genetics
- Infusion services
- Lymphedema therapy
- Plastic surgery clinic
- Supportive care services

To make an appointment, call 434.924.9333.

UVA BREAST CARE CENTER | 402 Peter Jefferson Parkway, Suite 200 | Charlottesville, VA 22911

HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK IS THE ONLY STATEWIDE HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR IN THE NATION – IT FEATURES 30 TOURS TAKING PLACE OVER 8 CONSECUTIVE DAYS AT THE END OF APRIL AND SHOWCASES APPROXIMATELY 200 PRIVATE PROPERTIES. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VAGARDENWEEK.ORG.

THE TOP 25 FAVORITE DAFFODILS
- Rapture
- Sweetness
- Fragrant Rose
- Tahini
- Tete-a-Tete
- Actaea
- Hawera
- Pacific Rim
- Bravoire
- Monal
- Thalia
- Barrett Browning
- Conestoga
- Ceylon
- Intrigue
- Geranium
- New Penny
- Salome
- Xit
- Avalanche
- Brooke Ager
- Dainty Miss
- Jeffre
- Mesa Verde
- N. jonquilla
- Tripartite

HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK FALL/WINTER MAGAZINE 2020
SAVING OUR ECOSYSTEM

ONE NATIVE PLANT AT A TIME

HEIDI JAMES, THE Lynchburg Garden Club and GCV Horticulture Committee Chairman

Imagine our commonwealth blanketed with native trees, shrubs and wildflowers from end to end. Virginia has unique and varying beauty, from its coastal region in the east to the piedmont and mountainous regions farther west. While the diversity of our flora and fauna is striking, a journey across the state could be more magnifcent if we worked together to promote native plants specific to each region of the state. Lady Bird Johnson launched a successful mass wildflower planting across the state of Texas in the 1980s that is still a tourist attraction today. Could we do something similar in Virginia?

A “pollinator highway” might make Virginia a social media destination, but there are more serious issues at stake. We now know that indigenous plants are imperative for the mere survival of many of our natural species of bees and other pollinators, insects, birds and mammals. They provide vital food and habitat for all species of our native wildlife and are adapted to local environmental conditions. Furthermore, native plants require far less water, a precious though taken-for-granted resource, compared to non-native, or introduced plants. Since native plants support biodiversity and the food web, it’s in our own best interest to plant them in our gardens, along our roadides and in our communities, both in public and private spaces. Depending on the grower and source, non-native plants could be treated with dangerous chemicals; and thus be harmful to pollinators, and often provide little benefit, other than ornamental, to the landscape.

The United Kingdom has launched the B-Lines Initiative, which aims to create at least 370,000 acres of flower-rich habitat. According to Buglife, the organization promoting the project, B-Lines are “an imaginative and beautiful solution to the problem of the loss of flowers and pollinators... restoring and creating a series of wildflower-rich habitat stepping stones. They link existing wildlife areas together, creating a network, like a railway, that will weave across the British landscape. This will provide large areas of brand-new habitat benefiting bees and butterflies— but also a host of other wildlife.” Virginia is two-and-a-half times smaller than England and seven times smaller than Texas. Could we create something similar in our state by working together? According to the Xerces Society, “Linking habitat areas by working with neighbors and your local or state transportation departments to add habitat along roadways brings the benefits of larger scale and helps make it possible for species to move from one place to another as the climate changes.” Named in honor of an extinct butterfly, this non-profit environmental organization focuses on the conservation of insects essential to maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem health. Next year marks its 50th anniversary.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is already on board. They have a strategy to maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem health. Next year marks their 50th anniversary. The Virginia Department of Transportation Shannon Valentine

“Across Virginia’s transportation sector, we are committed to integrating environmental stewardship and creating sustainable policies that support mobility, access and our quality of life. We want to be a part of why we all call Virginia home.” — Virginia Secretary of Transportation Shannon Valentine

Garden clubs and other civic organizations can make a difference by becoming a Bee City USA®. Their goal is to encourage cities, towns or counties to adopt practices that promote biodiversity and help pollinators. Ask your city to allocate its limited resources to landscaping and road maintenance in a way that benefits all of us. Add food and habitat for wildlife instead of spending funds to plant barren, non-native plants, and educate the public to do the same. There are four Bee Cities in Virginia: Hampton, Lynchburg, Scottsville and Vienna.

If more Virginia municipalities become Bee Cities, we can encourage our highway departments and regional VDOT offices to work together. We could literally “connect the dots” by creating a linked web of bee-friendly communities across the state.

What can you do to help?

• Start by adding native plants to your own gardens.
• Find the right native plants for your area: plantvirginianatives.org or natief.org/nativeplantfinder. The National Wildlife Federation Plant Finder lets you search by ZIP code.
• Reduce the size of your lawn or make it a bee-friendly lawn that includes native grasses and flowers.
• Stop using chemicals and fertilizers.
• Provide a source of water for pollinators and birds, such as a birdbath or bubbler.
• Finally, leave your garden intact through the winter to provide an essential habitat for native bees, butterflies and moths. The more of us who leave seed pods, instead of cutting them from faded perennials, for example; the more quickly we can change the perception of what’s attractive in a garden.
• Help shift from a mowed and nearly lifeless lawn, accentuated by introduced plants to a completely native environment in your own yard.

“Since native plants support biodiversity and the food web, it’s in our own best interest to plant them in our gardens, along our roadides and in our communities, both in public and private spaces.”

“Across Virginia’s transportation sector, we are committed to integrating environmental stewardship and creating sustainable policies that support mobility, access and our quality of life. We want to be a part of why we all call Virginia home.” — Virginia Secretary of Transportation Shannon Valentine

Garden clubs and other civic organizations can make a difference by becoming a Bee City USA®. Their goal is to encourage cities, towns or counties to adopt practices that promote biodiversity and help pollinators. Ask your city to allocate its limited resources to landscaping and road maintenance in a way that benefits all of us. Add food and habitat for wildlife instead of spending funds to plant barren, non-native plants, and educate the public to do the same. There are four Bee Cities in Virginia: Hampton, Lynchburg, Scottsville and Vienna.

If more Virginia municipalities become Bee Cities, we can encourage our highway departments and regional VDOT offices to work together. We could literally “connect the dots” by creating a linked web of bee-friendly communities across the state.
MARTINSVILLE
Begin the South Region itinerary in Martinsville mid-week. With history rooted in textiles and furniture, its Art and Culture District now plays an integral part in the revitalization of this former mill town. Located in a true “foothills” community, this tour takes visitors on country roads where expanses of pastureland reveal breathtaking mountain views. Visitors will enjoy the scenery near the Smith and Mayo Rivers that beckoned the original Native American settlers, Colonial farmers and industrial giants to the area. Fans of best-selling author Jude Deveraux will appreciate this self-driving tour where streets lined with mulberry trees, from one of the town’s oldest to its newer ones, parallel the evolution of the community.

DANVILLE
Danville is a historic river town centrally located on Routes 29 and 58. On Thursday, head east 30 miles to what was once a premier tobacco growing area in Virginia. Hosted by local GCV clubs in Danville and Chatham, this tour features rustic tobacco barns, as well as chic and modern barn entertainment venues. The historic barns are filled with references to the area’s past while another property features a restored cabin, as well as a newly built lodge and barn. Another property offers relaxing gardens and fountains.

FAIRY STONE STATE PARK
Your free day on Friday includes overnight stops at any of four state parks within easy driving distance.

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE OR STAUNTON RIVER STATE PARK
Smith Mountain Lake State Park in Bedford County offers numerous water-related activities as well as miles of walking trails. For more strenuous hiking trails, consider the Peaks of Otter on the famous Blue Ridge Parkway. If your plan is to head to South Hill on Saturday, travel east to Staunton River State Park. Stay in cabins built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps with landscaped grounds made possible by a Centennial grant from the GCV. Access to Virginia’s largest lake, Buggs Island Lake, and the distinction of being the first state park to be designated an International Dark Sky Park, make it an ideal stopover.

OCCONEECE STATE PARK
Named for Native Americans who lived in the area for hundreds of years, Occoneechee State Park is also on Buggs Island Lake, and is popular with anglers, offering 80,000 acres of fishing, boating and aquatic recreation. The visitor center and museum introduce guests to Native American history and the indigenous Occoneechee people. The park also has cabins that allow guests to enjoy the comforts of home as well as views of the lake.

SOUTH HILL
Saturday, the final day of Historic Garden Week 2021, provides two choices: west to Roanoke or east to South Hill. Originally called “South of the Hill,” this town of fewer than 10 square miles is situated at the junction of Boylston and Petersburg Plank Roads, near Virginia’s border with North Carolina. A railroad town since 1889 and a tobacco town since the 1900s, it is now a thriving Roanoke or South Hill. Hosted by: The Brunswick Garden Club, Chatham Garden Club, The Garden Club of Danville, Gabriella Garden Club, The Garden Study Club, The Martinsville Garden Club, Mill Mountain Garden Club and Roanoke Valley Garden Club.
This driving tour on the last day of Historic Garden Week features an early-spring collection of private gardens in the neighborhoods that dot the foot of regional medical center and a busy commercial center. This driving tour showcases properties in the Commercial Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places in South Hill, as well as access to the MacCallum More Museum and Gardens in Chase City. Located less than 40 minutes by car, it is the former home of Lucy Morton Hudgins, wife to Edward Wren Hudgins, former Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. Five acres of botanical gardens and an arboretum were established in 1929, the year of the first Historic Garden Week, and became Hudgins’ life’s work. In addition to the gardens, the museum includes an arrowhead collection and Native American artifacts.

ROANOKE
Roanoke, sheltered in the southernmost end of Virginia’s pristine Shenandoah Valley, boasts Southern charm, a temperate, four-season climate, and, remarkably, a mountain centered within its city limits. High along the banks of the Roanoke River, Mill Mountain stands as a beacon, welcoming visitors with an 88-feet-tall, man-made, illuminated star. The Blue Ridge Parkway weaves along the mountain, hiking trails criss-cross it, and neighborhoods—old and new—nestle against the base of its tree-filled slopes.

This driving tour on the last day of Historic Garden Week features an early-spring collection of private gardens in the neighborhoods that dot the foot of this natural elevation. Each garden is unique in size and style, yet they are all nurtured by ardent gardeners who use plants, water features and ornamentation to bring their artistic visions to life. A bonus: the newly renovated Mill Mountain Wildflower Garden at the very top of Mill Mountain serves as Tour Headquarters.

The Garden Club of Virginia is truly grateful for the steadfast commitment from our partners through their support of Historic Garden Week 2020, despite its cancellation. Special thanks to local 2020 Honor Roll sponsors and to Guidebook advertisers, listed here alphabetically and by the South region.

**2020 HONOR ROLL SPONSORS & GUIDEBOOK ADVERTISERS**

**American National Bank & Trust Co., Danville**
**American National Bank & Trust Co., Roanoke**
**CAPTRUST, Roanoke**
**Carilion Clinic, Roanoke**
**Chatham Hall, Chatham**
**Commonwealth Home Health Care, Inc., Danville**
**Elaine Stephenson Interiors, Inc., Roanoke**
**Estes Express Lines, South Hill**
**Garland’s on Crystal Spring, Roanoke**
**Georgia’s Flowers, Roanoke**
**HOME Magazine, Roanoke**
**King’s Grant, Martinsville**
**Lundy Layne Home Decor, Gifts & More, South Hill**
**Marsh & McLennan Agency, Roanoke**
**Midtown Market, Danville**
**Norris Funeral Services, Inc. and Crematory, Martinsville**
**Parker Oil, South Hill**
**Punch Boutique, Roanoke**
**Robert Harris Photography, South Hill**
**Sleep Inn & Suites, Danville**
**SOVA Food Hub DBA Makers Market, South Hill**
**The Stone House at Black Dog Salvage, Roanoke**
**Town of South Hill, South Hill**
**VCU Health Community Memorial Hospital, South Hill**
**Virginia Museum of Natural History, Martinsville**
**Virginia Varsity, Roanoke**
**Yarid’s shoes and accessories, Roanoke**

**VCUHealth**
Community Memorial Hospital

**WILDWOOD**
Nursery & Garden Center, Inc.

**VCU Health**
Community Memorial Hospital

**Virginia Museum of Natural History, Martinsville**

**Virginia Varsity, Roanoke**

**Yarid’s shoes and accessories, Roanoke**
IT’S TOOL TUNE-UP TIME

BY SUSAN MORRIS, THE MARTINSVILLE GARDEN CLUB

It’s November and gardens across Virginia are being put to bed. The next few months are a time to wait for the emergence of tender green shoots, one of the first signs of spring. Winter is an excellent time to service your outdoor equipment, making sure that secateurs, shears and trowels are ready in the spring.

START THIS OFF-SEASON PROJECT BY FIRST CLEANING ANY RESIDUAL DIRT AND RUST FROM GARDEN TOOLS.

Brush off equipment with a stiff wire brush to dislodge most of the debris. Next, place your tools in warm, soapy water. A hard toothbrush, while not recommended for humans, is superb for cleaning small crevices and hinges. Rinse and dry well. Worn towels and old T-shirts can be recycled and repurposed for this task.

NEXT, MAKE A QUICK-CLEAN BUCKET.

Fill a one-gallon container with clean “play,” or sandbox sand until it is within four inches of the brim. Add mineral oil to the sand until it is moist. You will need approximately ten ounces. Once prepared, insert tools into the bucket with blades and cutting edges down, pointing into the sand. This is a great way to lightly sharpen and oil-treat your tools during the gardening season as well, and is a safe and convenient way to store your tools. Just be sure to store the bucket in a dry location.

THE PAW PROJECT

BY SUSAN MORRIS, THE MARTINSVILLE GARDEN CLUB

Almost three years ago, the Martinsville and Garden Study Clubs, both part of a network of 48 member clubs comprising the Garden Club of Virginia, received a grant as part of a conservation award to develop a pollinator garden. The half-mile Paw Path runs along the scenic Smith River at the Smith River Sporting Complex. Designed to address conservation and preservation in the local community, the award made possible the following enhancements to the educational mission of the project.

THEPAWPATH.ORG was developed and launched last January to increase local community awareness of native plants and their importance in attracting pollinators. A MARKETING BROCHURE was designed to accompany the experience and direct tourists to the trail. ADDITIONAL SIGNAGE was created to provide driving and walking directions to the garden from nearby neighborhoods, and from the Dick and Willie Passage Trail, which follows a decommissioned railroad line from uptown Martinsville to the Smith River Complex. A 24-PAGE COLORING WORKBOOK with sketches of native plants has been developed for each 1st grader in Martinsville city schools, in Henry County schools and at Carlisle School in Martinsville and will be distributed early in 2021.
For nearly 90 years the Garden Club of Virginia has been celebrating the beauty of Virginia’s landscapes and gardens through Historic Garden Week, its signature event. When Historic Garden Week 2020 was cancelled due to COVID-19, the Garden Club of Virginia focused on projects already underway, in particular, the carriage turnaround at Poplar Forest and the Reveley Garden at William & Mary, as well as supporting gardens the non-profit had previously restored. Once a project becomes a GCV restoration garden, it stays in the organization’s system, becoming an ongoing project.

Tour proceeds have restored nearly 50 historic public gardens across the commonwealth, provided valuable research fellowships in the area of landscape architecture, and supported the Garden Club of Virginia’s Centennial project with Virginia State Parks.

Taken by Garden Club of Virginia members, these photos are just a few examples of the projects made possible through proceeds from Historic Garden Week tours.

**THE WORK OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA continues**
TO CELEBRATE ITS 2020 CENTENNIAL, GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA LEADERS SEIZED UPON A PROJECT THAT LINKED THE PAST TO THE PRESENT. In 1929 (the same year that Historic Garden Week was launched), with the Izaak Walton League and the Virginia Academy of Science, garden club members lobbied the Virginia General Assembly to establish state parks. The land that was to be set aside for public enjoyment of nature was representative of the best of the natural world throughout the various geographical regions of Virginia. The efforts were successful, but it wasn’t until 1936 that the state park system was formally instituted. The first State Parks were: Douthat, Fairy Stone, Hungry Mother, Soaphore (now called First Landing), Staunton River and Westmoreland. Just as the GCV has grown, so has the Virginia state park system, which now boasts 39 parks from the Tidewater through the Piedmont, Blue Ridge Mountains, the Valley and to the mountains and Appalachian Plateau of western Virginia.

“...The funds provided by the Garden Club of Virginia will help us purchase the native plants and supplies needed to complete this project. Not only will it be an aesthetically pleasing view upon entering the park, but it also helps to educate our visitors on the importance of planting native at home.”
— Paul Anderson, Widewater Park Manager

A Landscape Saved

In the state parks, where land is protected, the mission of the garden club can be realized; native plants and trees are protected, educational programming has a natural classroom, and tourists enjoy all benefits of the outdoors. As our Centennial gift, we gave the commonwealth $500,000 in grants to support 54 projects in communities both large and small. This award-winning and nationally recognized program continues a tradition of championing state parks and protecting our natural landscapes.

2020 Days of Service Provided at:

- Kenmore Plantation
- Smith’s Fort
- Fincastle Presbyterian Church
- Historic Christ Church
- Wilton
- Belle Grove
- Historic Portsmouth Courthouse
- Hollins University Club
- Sweet Briar College

Supporting Our Communities and Historic Gardens Since 1907
Preservation & Growth

Our focus is to preserve capital, manage its growth and provide our clients with peace of mind and financial independence.

- Asset Management
- Tax-Managed Investing
- Trust & Estate Services
- IRA Rollovers

To learn more about our approach to wealth preservation, contact

Douglas Nunn — 804.272.9044

cvwealth.com

Richmond | Williamsburg | Lynchburg | McLean | Roanoke | Knoxville

Employee-Owned | Independent Trust Company