



# THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA Year in Review

Dear GCV Members,

This has been another year of “firsts”...launching the brand new Garden Club of Virginia Symposium, hosting regional New Member Orientation gatherings, and on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Historic Garden Week, recognizing the past State HGW Chairs for their extraordinary contributions in making Historic Garden Week the national phenomenon it has become. As our new club year opens, it is a particular privilege to recognize immediate past president Sally Guy Brown and her wonderful board for the numerous accomplishments achieved under her able and gracious leadership that you will read about in these pages. How proud each of us should be of what we have accomplished!



I encourage you to take special note about an exciting new project that The GCV is launching in conjunction with the Federated Garden Clubs and Scenic Virginia to make Virginia even more beautiful. VDOT reports that tax dollars to fund the re-seeding of medians along Virginia highways with native wildflowers are very limited. When The GCV asked what could be done, the reply was for individual members to purchase a new Va. Wildflower license plate. Fifteen dollars of the purchase price will be directed to a fund designated specifically for re-seeding highways and byways. This is a small, but significant deed that each of us can do to beautify our Commonwealth. Just go to [www.dmvnow.com](http://www.dmvnow.com) and click on “plate purchase”



I would like to give my special thank you to those Garden Clubs, fellow Garden Club members and friends who have gone above and beyond by supporting The GCV with a gift or pledge this past year. We all give of our time and talent. In these pages, we recognize our members who have also given gifts of treasure. The GCV benefits greatly from gifts to the Endowment, the GCV Conservation Fund, and the Commonwealth Award Fund. You and your gifts are truly making a difference.

With much appreciation,

*Cabell*

Cabell Goolsby West  
President

## Historic Garden Week Celebrates 75 Years!

The GCV celebrated this anniversary with record ticket sales, fabulous publicity, an anniversary-themed Symposium, and a General Assembly commendation. Since the 1920s, The GCV has restored or enhanced more than 50 publicly accessible historic gardens and landscapes across the Commonwealth. No other organization raises monies from a house and garden tour and puts them back into the ground

to restore historic properties, an especially important contribution when government funding is lacking.



*Helen Hamilton, Ann Reed and Alice McGuire.*

At the Annual Meeting in May, past State Chairs of Historic Garden Week were recognized by outgoing GCV President Sally Guy Brown for their tireless devotion and for leading this important program “with characteristic grace and style.”

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.

No dues money was used to produce this publication.

All photos are courtesy of The GCV unless otherwise credited.

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## EDUCATION

The first ever GCV Symposium, attended by over 500 in Fredericksburg in February 2008, was the largest gathering of members for non-business purposes in the history of The GCV. "We wanted an educational

event which all members could attend and one that would include programs to highlight the mission of the club,"

noted Chair and past president Mina Wood. The Symposium featured a broad range of topics including growing and conserving native plants, flower arranging, and elements of garden design.



*Flower design by Lynn Gas.*

selected vendors from the surrounding area enticed members with unusual wares. The hugely successful event drew members from across the state and will be repeated in February 2010.



*Sally Guy Brown, Nancy Campbell and Mina Wood.*



## RESTORATION

Ticket sales for Historic Garden Week 2008 topped \$800,000 for the most financially successful Garden Week ever. Internet ticket income tripled, and HGW "went global," with international publicity for the program's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The GCV and our restoration programs were front and center in the public eye. Two new restoration projects were presented in September 2007, one at Historic St. Luke's Church in Isle of Wight County and the other at the Yeardley Garden at Jamestown,

in time for Jamestown's gala 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a visit by the Queen. The 2008 Rudy J. Favretti Historic Landscape Fellowship, which supports the documentation of historic gardens in private hands, is Hannah Warfield, who is doing research at Tuckahoe Plantation in Goochland County.

2008 Restorations include:

- Pavilion VI Garden at UVA,
- Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library,
- Stratford Hall — installation of the final gate.

For a complete listing of GCV Restoration projects, please visit the GCV website.



*Yeardley Garden at Jamestown. Photo courtesy of Jamie May, an archaeologist with the APVA.*



*Historic St. Luke's Church. Photo courtesy of Rieley and Associates.*

## CONSERVATION

Encouraging the use of recyclable bags instead of paper and plastic has been a major focus for the Conservation Committee this past year.

Several grocery chains

have taken our lead in producing environmentally friendly bags that may one day replace the plastic "witches' britches",

so nicknamed by past Conservation Chair Marsha Merrell, that often land on tree branches along highways and city streets.



*Chamie Valentine and Carroll Andrews with recycle bags.*



*Eleanor Towers, Marsha Merrell and Sally Guy Brown.*

On the Legislative front, GCV members led by Marsha Merrell had a growing impact in shaping the environmental well being of our state. When legislation was introduced to weaken the role of Citizen's Boards, those environmental watchdog groups whose expert members are appointed by the governor, The GCV joined with a wide spectrum of business leaders, concerned citizens and environmentalists to retain the Citizens Boards. Thanks to many of you who made calls and wrote letters, we were successful.



## The Garden Club of Virginia Honor Roll of Donors

The members, clubs, and friends listed below have given to The Garden Club of Virginia by way of the Common Wealth Award Fund, the new GCV Conservation Fund, The Garden Club of Virginia Endowment, Restoration, and the SEED Fund between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008. Member dues do not support any of these funds. These generous members and friends are ensuring that the outward and visible work of The GCV, with its reputation for excellence, continues. We are most grateful for these gifts and especially the spirit in which they are given.

### Regency Terrace | \$10,000 and above

Mrs. Thomas C. Brown, Jr.  
Mrs. Benjamin W. Mears, Jr.  
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### Annual Border | \$100 to \$499

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Roanoke Valley Garden Club

## The Godmothers of The Garden Club of Virginia

The current and past presidents listed below have given or pledged a major gift toward building The Garden Club of Virginia Endowment.

Mrs. Thomas C. Brown, Jr.  
Mrs. Rudolph Bumgardner III  
Mrs. Robert Carter  
Mrs. George M. Cochran  
Mrs. Austin T. Darden, Jr.  
Mrs. George H. Flowers, Jr.  
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Mrs. W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr.  
Mrs. Charles H. Schutte, Jr.  
Mrs. Lilburn T. Talley  
Mrs. Robert C. Wood III

## Friends of The Garden Club of Virginia

The donors listed below have generously supported The Garden Club of Virginia with gifts in their estate plans.

Mrs. Thomas C. Brown, Jr.  
Mrs. Austin T. Darden, Jr.  
Mrs. Lucius J. Kellam\*  
Mrs. H. Gordon Leggett, Jr.\*  
Mrs. Benjamin W. Mears  
Mrs. James B. Montgomery  
Mrs. John Tyssowski\*  
Mrs. J. H. Tyler Wilson\*  
\*deceased

## Special gifts to the Kent-Valentine House and Library

Mrs. St. Julian Oppenheimer... pair of 19th century English pitchers  
Mrs. Fitzgerald Bermiss  
Mrs. James H. Herbert  
Mrs. Mary Sherwood Holt  
Mrs. David Lay  
Mr. Gary Martindale  
Mary Nelson Thompson  
GCV Lily Committee

## Special gifts to The GCV

The McDaniel Family  
Nina Mustard  
Anonymous

If you would like information about making a stock gift or planned gift, please contact the Executive Director 804-643-4137 or [director@gcvirginia.org](mailto:director@gcvirginia.org). You may also make a gift on-line.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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[www.gcvirginia.org](http://www.gcvirginia.org)

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# THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA Year in Review

## GCV Firsts in 2008

- 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of Historic Garden Week in Virginia and the tour goes global.
- General Assembly Commendation on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HGW.
- The GCV Symposium, open to all members and guests.
- The GCV Endowment campaign established a goal to raise \$1.0 million by 2011.
- Three new Flower Show Awards named and given.
- Five statewide Orientation Gatherings for new members of The GCV.
- A Conservation and Beautification CD made for each club to show to members.
- GCV members can now say "Charge it!" for events and on line donations on the re-revised web site.



*New member orientation gatherings  
around the commonwealth.*

