

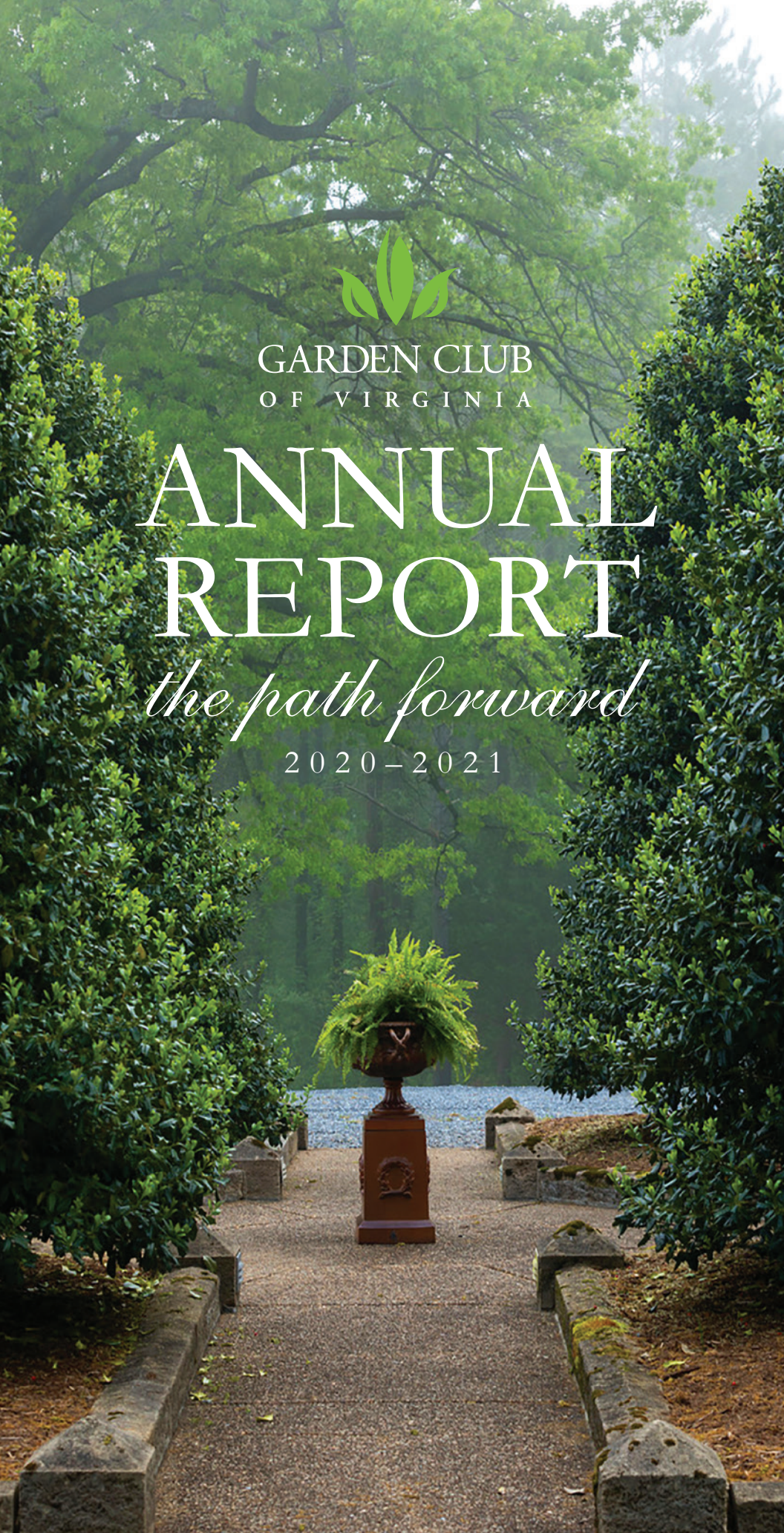


GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA

ANNUAL REPORT

the path forward

2020-2021





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.

Photo by Edie Hessburg, Winchester-Clarke Garden Club;
Cover photo by Missy Janes, Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club



DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

Together we faced a year of pandemic-related challenges with our trademark creativity, nimbleness, positivity and fortitude, and we found opportunities in obstacles. By doing so we moved forward in new and different ways to forge an exciting path for the Garden Club of Virginia as we officially began a second century of service.

We held steadfast to our mantra to plan, prepare, pivot, punt or proceed. Our work continued with events, meetings and programming held in non-traditional ways. Indeed, our first virtual Conservation Forum exceeded its typical reach six times over with 2,200 participants, and a creative and safe approach to hosting Historic Garden Week were just a few of many examples of GCV's ingenuity in the COVID crisis.

While each issue of the *GCV Journal* serves as testament to and celebration of our successful collaboration across six districts, 48 member clubs and more than 3,400 individual members, this issue offers a special insert to acknowledge and thank our many generous donors and to highlight our accomplishments together in the July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 fiscal year. We hope you enjoy this new format of our Annual Report of the Garden Club of Virginia.

I continue to be inspired by how much we achieve together with your abundant gifts of time, talent and resources. I am proud to walk alongside you as we move forward on a new and exciting path for the Garden Club of Virginia.

Missy Buckingham

Missy Buckingham, President 2020-2022
GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA



Years ago a mentor impressed upon me, "If you're not learning, you're not growing."

That lesson is especially pertinent at the Garden Club of Virginia, where the quest to acquire and share knowledge underpins our mission and helps us to grow and thrive.

Thanks to you—the members, donors and sponsors listed in this report—we can extend education far beyond our own backyards on topics ranging from conservation, horticulture, artistic design and photography. Your support helps to underwrite workshops, forums, programs and publications that inform. You help to advance the GCV's mission and inspire all of us to be good stewards.

We build on lessons from the past to restore Virginia's public historic landscapes and gardens for future generations to enjoy. Funds for remarkable restorations are made possible by the GCV's talented and committed members who host Historic Garden Week tours across the commonwealth each spring, as well as loyal advertisers, sponsors and visitors from across the country. Philanthropic support also helps the GCV to sponsor scholarships and fellowships so that budding conservationists and landscape architects can learn and grow, too.

Through our strong network of 48 clubs, GCV members identify garden, landscape and environmental needs in their communities, and your support helps the GCV to award competitive grants so that clubs can take action to address these needs. The cycle of learning and growing is thriving at the GCV, thanks to your commitment to paving the path forward.

Andrea Butler

Andrea Butler, Executive Director
GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

**THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA IS HONORED TO
ACKNOWLEDGE OUR GENEROUS DONORS**

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\$5,000 TO \$9,999

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The Garden Club of the Northern Neck

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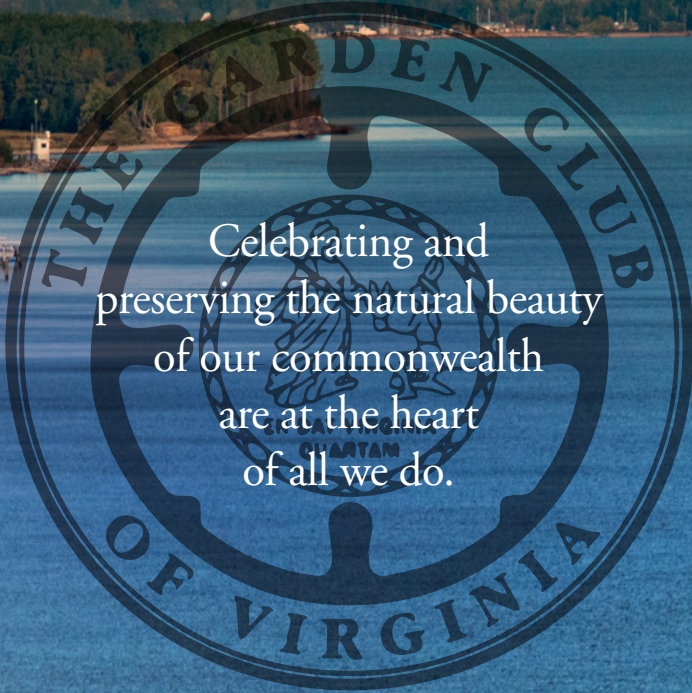
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Wendy Walker

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Cabell Goolsby West



Celebrating and
preserving the natural beauty
of our commonwealth
are at the heart
of all we do.

BOXWOOD MAZE

\$500 TO \$999

Hermitage Museum & Gardens
Investment Management of Virginia, LLC
The Cameron Foundation
KVA Foundation

The James River Garden Club
The Garden Club of the
Middle Peninsula

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Betsy Worthington



Tribute Gifts

Many donors have made tribute gifts in honor of and in memory of others. The Garden Club of Virginia sends cards to the honorees or to surviving family members to notify them of these gifts.

or the list of the 2020-2021 tribute gifts, please visit the GCV website at GCVirginia.org.

Funds

The Garden Club of Virginia has separate funds to support distinct pillars of our mission. The annual gifts to all funds except the Annual Fund are restricted to specific purposes:

THE ANNUAL FUND

helps to provide the resources needed to fulfill the Garden Club of Virginia's mission.

THE COMMON WEALTH AWARD

provides competitive grant funding for community-based projects led by our member clubs.

THE CONSERVATION FUND

supports the Garden Club of Virginia's educational programming, fellowships and advocacy to promote conservation and environmental stewardship.

THE ENDOWMENT FUND

ensures that the Garden Club of Virginia will maintain its leadership role in restoration, conservation, education and beautification well into the future.

THE RESTORATION FUND

helps the Garden Club of Virginia restore, preserve and protect historic public landscapes and gardens for future generations.



Photo courtesy of Sue Gouldman, Rivanna Garden Club

HEALING GARDEN

\$250 TO \$499

The Benevity Community Impact Fund
The Moyer Family Charitable Fund

The Garden Club of Alexandria
The Ashland Garden Club
The Blue Ridge Garden Club
The Garden Club of Fairfax
The Princess Ann Garden Club

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* Deceased

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\$100 TO \$249

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The Brunswick Garden Club
The Charlottesville Garden Club
Dolley Madison Garden Club
The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore
Gabriella Garden Club
The Garden Study Club
The Hampton Roads Garden Club

The Huntington Garden Club
Junior Virginia Beach Garden Club
Leesburg Garden Club
The Lynchburg Garden Club
The Petersburg Garden Club
Rivanna Garden Club
The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton
The Virginia Beach Garden Club
The Garden Club of Warren County
The Williamsburg Garden Club

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**KNOT GARDEN
UP TO \$99**

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Winchester-Clarke
Garden Club

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Emily Ashwell Allen
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Changing the Landscape

The Lynchburg Garden Club and Hillside Garden Club, along with several partners, received the 2021 Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award for phase II of their project, Roadside Diversity Native Perennial Beds.

HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK 2021 SPONSORS

The Garden Club of Virginia's restorations of historic public gardens and fellowships in architectural landscape are made possible by the proceeds from Historic Garden Week in Virginia. We thank these sponsors for their gifts of \$1,000 or more:

1Z 2Z 3Z	Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
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Birdsong Peanuts	Kitchen Designworks—KDW
Blink and Guild Hall of Williamsburg	High Cotton
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GREEN ARROW SOCIETY

We are sincerely grateful to the members and friends who have chosen to leave a lasting legacy by including the Garden Club of Virginia in their estate plans.

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Jean E. R. Gilpin	<i>* Deceased</i>
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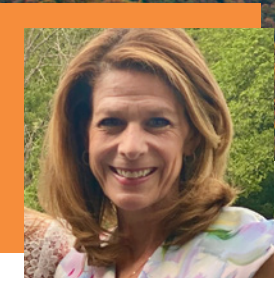
Stratford Hall Garden

The East Garden at Stratford Hall, restored by the Garden Club of Virginia, is one of the most visually stunning and accurate displays of 18th century landscape in the country. Photo by Rieley and Associates.

The Garden Club of Virginia is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All photos are property of the GCV unless otherwise credited.



Photo by Edie Hessberg



Treasurer's Report

Fiscal year 2020-2021 for the Garden Club of Virginia was a year marked by changing variables and the need for flexibility, and it brought out the best in our resourcefulness and our pursuit of continuous improvement.

Despite initial concerns surrounding the finances of the GCV during the COVID-19 pandemic, the GCV took many steps to ensure fiscal responsibility during the uncertain times. With approval from the Board of Directors we:

- Approved two interim budgets before approving a final budget so that income and expense line items could be reviewed for updating and accuracy.
- Applied for and received forgiveness of the Paycheck Protection loan of \$71,096.
- Carefully watched our bank account balances, resulting in a draw in May 2021 from our Endowment Fund of only \$90,000, a two percent draw.
- Maintained an open line of credit for 2021 HGW expenses that was never used, resulting in the decision not to renew it for FY22.
- Revamped our budget reporting to make it more transparent and understandable.

The Garden Club of Virginia operates on a fiscal year that began July 1, 2020, and ended on June 30, 2021. We made many adjustments to our programs and events to accommodate state-wide public health safety guidelines.

The Garden Club of Virginia's largest source of revenue is our annual Historic Garden Week. While this year's event looked different from previous years with primarily outdoor-only tours, timed ticketing and reduced capacity, the tour receipts of \$443,850 exceeded our projections by 25 percent. The net income supports our restoration projects of historic public landscapes throughout the commonwealth.

The sources of operating funds for the GCV include membership dues, the annual fund, donations and sponsorships of events, such as the Conservation Forum. In addition, we receive income from publication advertising, workshops, programs and rental of our carriage house.

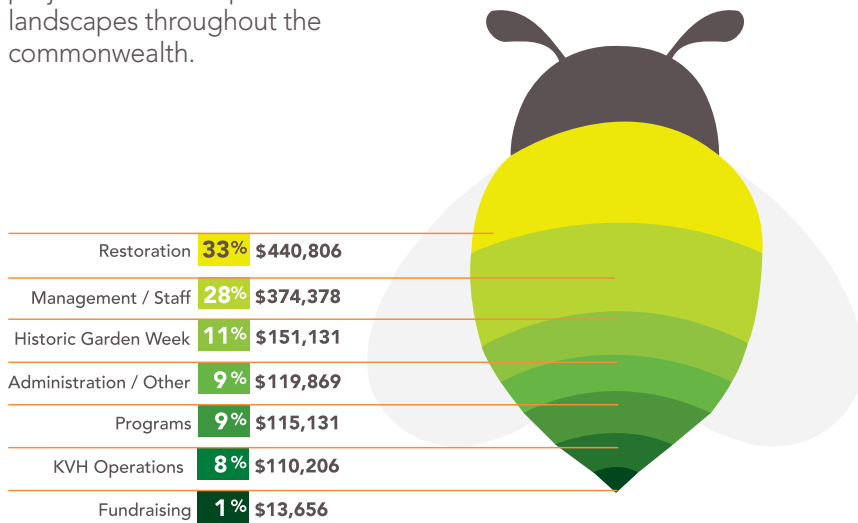
The expenses for the GCV include funding our restoration projects, fellowships and cash awards for community projects, educational programs for members and for the general public, our management/staff salaries (four fulltime and three part-time staff), property maintenance and operations of our headquarters, development and communications and our yearly audit.

To communicate with our membership, we maintain our website, produce an e-newsletter monthly and publish the *Journal* quarterly, as well as meet with the club presidents at our annual spring and fall meetings. We also host and facilitate meetings for 17 standing committees and six special committees. We fund two awards each year, the Common Wealth Award and the Bessie Boccock Carter Conservation Award. We normally fund two classes of fellowships each year. The Conservation Fellowship was completed in FY21 but the two Restoration Fellowships were on hold for a second year because of the pandemic.

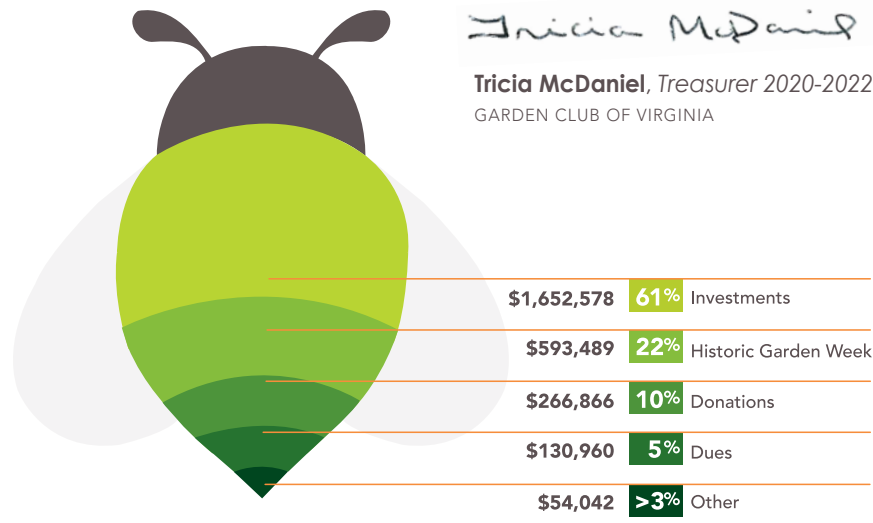
Our assets include the Kent-Valentine House property, our cash accounts and investment portfolios. At the end of June 2021, the GCV investment portfolios were valued at \$7.1 million; this is up 19% from one year prior. Our financial records for the 2019-20 fiscal year were audited, and we received a clean opinion. As a 501(c)(3) organization, our federal Form 990 was filed this year and is available for public review.

The GCV leadership has been prudent in overseeing its finances this past year. Through these actions, we are in a stable financial position as we head into fiscal year 2021-22. We look forward to advancing our mission throughout the commonwealth.

Tricia McDaniel, Treasurer 2020-2022
GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA



GCV Expense \$1,325,699



GCV Income \$2,697,933

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Karen Ellsworth
*Director of Historic Garden Week
and Special Programs*

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Thank you for helping the
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THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA, CONTACT
ANDREA BUTLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
AT 804-643-4137.

Photo by Edie Hessberg, Winchester-Clark Garden Club, In the garden of Casey Rice, Harborfront Garden Club



TRIBUTE GIFTS

The Garden Club of Virginia gratefully acknowledges donors who made tribute gifts from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.

2020-2021

THE ANNUAL FUND

THIS FUND HELPS TO PROVIDE RESOURCES NEEDED TO FULLFILL THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA'S MISSION.



**GARDEN CLUB
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www.GCVirginia.org

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GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA

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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.



GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA

KENT-VALENTINE HOUSE
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