

THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA



VOL LXIV, NO. 2, JUNE 2019

Journal



GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA

The Garden Club of Virginia exists to celebrate the beauty of the land, to conserve the gifts of nature and to challenge future generations to build on this heritage.

FROM THE EDITOR

Let the countdown begin – one year until the official Centennial of the Garden Club of Virginia. *Follow the Green Arrow: The History of the Garden Club of Virginia, 1920-1970* recounts that, “An invitation was issued by Mrs. Thomas S. Wheelwright, President of the James River Garden club, to the other clubs of the state to send their presidents and one delegate to a conference in Richmond, on May the 13th, 1920.” Mrs. Wheelwright is featured in this issue as one of 230 women on the Wall of Honor on the new Virginia Women’s Monument in Capitol Square. This monument honors women who have made an impact in Virginia since the 1600s.

The GCV will be honoring our “steel magnolias,” both past and present, throughout the year. Centennial keepsake items are now available for sale online, at the Kent-Valentine House, and at select GCV events. As we celebrate our GCV legacy and look to the future, there will be many opportunities for GCV members to get involved – culminating with the Founders Day celebration in Richmond on May 13, 2020, to which you are all invited. Please mark your calendars.

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The Garden Club of Virginia *Journal*

The Garden Club of Virginia *Journal* (USPS 574-520, ISSN 0431-0233) is published four times a year for members by the GCV, 12 East Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219. Periodical postage paid in Richmond, VA. Single issue price, \$5.00.

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Copy and ad deadlines:
January 15 for the March issue
April 15 for the June issue
July 15 for the September issue
October 15 for the December issue
Email copy to the Editor and advertising to the Advertising Chairman.

Journal Ad Rates

| Size | Dimensions | Rate |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Full page | 4 1/2" x 7 1/2" | \$500 |
| 2/3 page | 4 1/2" x 5" | \$375 |
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| 1/4 page | 2 1/4" x 3 3/4" | \$135 |

Discounts: 15% discount will apply, if advertising in all four publications

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Vol. LXIV, No. 2
Printed on recycled paper by
Carter Printing Company
Richmond, VA



ON THE COVER...

Our native geranium, *Geranium maculatum*, is a woodland perennial, often known as cranesbill for its beak-shaped seed capsules. Attractive to butterflies, this rendering by Esther Carpi of the Hunting Creek Garden Club is so lifelike, it might fool a few.

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Judy Boyce Perry Awarded the Massie Medal

by Dianne Spence, GCV Massie Medal Chairman
The Williamsburg Garden Club

Judy Boyce Perry was presented the 2019 Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement at the Garden Club of Virginia annual meeting on May 8, hosted by the Elizabeth River Garden Club. The members of her club were overjoyed to have one of their own honored in Judy's hometown of Portsmouth.

Judy's depth and breadth of service since 1975 is evident in the positions she has held in the GCV. Judy has served as GCV flower shows chairman, horticulture chairman, artistic judge, director at large, and second vice president. Currently Judy is the GCV historian, a member of the restoration committee, editor of *Restoration News* and, for the past three years, the restoration fellowships chairman.

Within her club Judy has served as the president; chaired GCV board of governors and annual meetings and flower shows; and authored *Styles of Flower Arranging: A Primer, 1991* and *Styles of Flower Arranging: Contemporary Designs, 2006*, which have been successful, ongoing fundraisers for Elizabeth River. Judy's many activities within her community, and especially in conjunction with her club's Common Wealth Award-winning project, Paradise Creek Nature Park, have earned her admiration among her club members and throughout the City of Portsmouth. This year Judy is the recipient of the First Citizen of Portsmouth, one of the highest honors bestowed on a member of the community.

"Judy has been a guiding force for the restoration committee and an intrepid leader of the restoration fellowships committee. In both roles, she has been unflinching perceptive, discerning and sensible," said GCV Landscape Architect William Rieley.

Her dedication in believing that everyone has a gift to share, and her ability to be a confidence builder to encourage others to lead and contribute, make Judy Perry a most worthy recipient of this highest honor bestowed on a GCV member. 🌸



*Massie Medal recipient Judy Perry
with granddaughters
Ainsley (left) and Audrey*



de Lacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation

*by Heidi James, GCV Conservation Awards Chairman
The Lynchburg Garden Club*

Anne Mead Beals, of the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club, is the winner of the 2019 de Lacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation. The award was presented at the Garden Club of Virginia annual meeting in Portsmouth on May 8.

Anne has consistently promoted sustainable forestry and the ideals of conservation. In 1973, Anne and her late husband, George, moved to 3,800-acre Oakley Farm in Spotsylvania County and managed it using responsible farming and forestry practices. Because of their efforts, Oakley Farm was designated as a Tree Farm in 1988, earned national recognition from the National Endowment for Soil and Water Conservation in 1990, won the Clean Water Farm Award in 1999 and was recognized as a Good Earth Conservation Farm. Since 2017, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has overseen the farm as the Oakley Forest Wildlife Management Area. It will be managed in perpetuity as working forestland. By putting 2,900 acres in perpetual managed care, the family has preserved open space, protected a fragile wildlife habitat and conserved natural resources. The remaining acreage, including two historic homes, remains in the family.

Anne worked with the local public school system to create the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience for 4th graders in Spotsylvania County, through a partnership between the Tri-County-City Soil and Water Conservation District and the Virginia Tech Extension Service. She chaired the GCV conservation and beautification committee from 2012-2014 and worked with the National Wildlife Foundation to create a presentation on climate change that she shared with GCV clubs.

Anne participated in the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute in 2004 and has served in leadership positions with many conservation organizations. In recognition of her lifelong conservation efforts, the GCV is proud to present Anne Mead Beals with the de Lacy Gray Memorial Medal. 🌿



Anne Beals and her son Thomas.

Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award Winner for 2019

Winchester-Clarke Garden Club Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve

*by Heidi James, GCV Conservation Awards Committee Chairman
The Lynchburg Garden Club*

Thank you to all member clubs for sending in your ballots to determine the winner of this year's Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award. The award, named for the Garden Club of Virginia president from 1998-2000, was established in 2009 and is a monetary award that is funded through the GCV, with the generous support of the Carter family. Clubs receiving this award must implement a project that conserves resources and/or protects the environment, benefits a local community or the entire Commonwealth of Virginia, and should serve as a catalyst for community action and inspire future conservationists and conservation accomplishments.

This year's winning project is the Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve, sponsored by Winchester-Clarke Garden Club in partnership with the City of Winchester's parks and recreation department and Shenandoah University's environmental studies program. The club began supporting the project in 2003. With a central location, this 25-acre urban green space and wetlands preserve is



an educational and recreational resource for Winchester. In 2017, recognizing the fragility of the marsh, Winchester-Clarke began raising funds and donating volunteer hours to restore and protect it. The marsh is a habitat for more than 304 plant species, including 20 that are rare in Virginia and 2 that are found nowhere else in the state. No other comparable wetlands in Virginia has as many rare plant species. Because the marsh is also a calcareous muck fen with a limestone bedrock, low acidity and high nutrient levels, it captures pollutants and keeps them out of drinking water. It can take 10,000 years for a fen to develop, and it would be terrible to lose it. Encroaching shrubs and trees threatened the area, as does nearby development. Club members will add signage, accessible-to-all paths, an audio walking tour, and manpower to help keep the marsh free of invading plant life. Because of the efforts of Winchester-Clarke, the City of Winchester and Shenandoah University, the Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve is a protected haven for learning, relaxing and appreciating the gifts of nature. This year's award, which is \$7,000, was presented at the GCV annual meeting on May 8 in Portsmouth. ❁

For a full list of Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award recipients, go to gcvirginia.org.



GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA

Horticulture Award of Merit

*by Wendy Walker, GCV Horticulture Committee Chairman
The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore*

The horticulture committee of the Garden Club of Virginia is pleased to announce recipients of the 2019 Horticulture Award of Merit.

This award was established in 1960 for individual members of the GCV who have achieved significant accomplishments in horticulture, both personally and in the community at large.

Susan Garrett, the Nansemond River Garden Club, has continually won her club's award for excellence in exhibiting horticulture and has done the same in GCV shows. Her vast knowledge of plants and extensive collection are shared generously with her fellow club and community members. Susan is a go-to person for all things horticulture, and her contributions merit this recognition.

Sherry Leffel, the Spotswood Garden Club, has held many leadership positions in her club. She has shared her years of experience as a biology teacher, educating her fellow club members and serving her community, including extensive work at the James Madison University arboretum. Her passion for horticulture is evident in all her activities, and her favorite shopping spree is a visit to the garden center.

Congratulations from your fellow GCV members.

Green Arrow Society

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you shall never sit."

—Nelson Henderson

We are sincerely grateful to the GCV members and friends who have chosen to make a lasting legacy to the Garden Club of Virginia.

Margaret Bemiss*

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Brown, Jr.

Beverly I. and Wirt A. Christian*

Lee Stuart Cochran*

Janet Jackson Dennis*

Clarkie and Tom Eppes

Robert A. Henkel

Patricia Reid Webb Leggett*

Katherine Turner Mears

Helen Turner Murphy

Margaret W. Talman

Susan Wight

Mina Wood

*denotes deceased

If you have made a bequest gift to the Garden Club of Virginia and would like to be recognized as a member of our Green Arrow Society, please contact Lexie Haglund, development@gcvirginia.org.

Lily Notes

A Very Special Show

by Carrie Darracott, GCV Lily Committee Chairman
The Augusta Garden Club

The 77th Annual Garden Club of Virginia Lily Show will be held at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 12291 River Road in Richmond on Tuesday, June 18, 2019. The show schedule and further information are available at gcvirginia.org. To access, click on the green banner "2019 Lilies in Bloom" at the bottom of the public home page. Whether you are an experienced exhibitor or you are just curious about lilies, this beautiful and fragrant show should be interesting and helpful to you. A full schedule of classes will be offered to member and non-member exhibitors and will be judged by GCV members who are accredited by the North American Lily Society. Information about lily culture will be offered at the lily central table. A GCV Centennial exhibit will feature the early history of the garden club's emphasis on growing and showing lilies. The show is dedicated to the memory of Katherine Beale, an enthusiastic and accomplished lily judge and expert grower who died this past year, and a very special exhibit will honor her. In addition, two classes of artistic exhibits will be presented on pedestals in the lovely old sanctuary at St. Mary's.



*Katherine Beale,
Harborfront
Garden Club*

At the show, there will be a class open not to individuals, but to GCV member clubs. The Interclub Collection (Section A, Class 3) highlights annual collections of lily bulbs offered by the GCV to its members. A look at GCV history in *Follow the Green Arrow* (vol. 1, p. 50) reveals an early emphasis on lily horticulture. At the Board of Governors meeting held in Alexandria, Oct. 7-8, 1936, a horticulture standing committee was established. On the recommendation of Mrs. W. Wayt Gibbs, the Augusta Garden Club, it was decided to form a lily test committee. At the 1937 BOG meeting (p. 52), "a sum from the Contributor's Fund had been used to establish a Lily Test Garden." Gradually, the idea of planting a variety of lilies in Virginia and making a record of their success or failure morphed into our current practice of offering an annual set collection of lilies to members. For many years, feedback was requested to test the success level of each lily in gardens around the state. This practice was eventually discontinued, so the collections are no longer labeled as test collections. Modern lily breeding has greatly expanded the array of lilies that are successful in the entire state. This year collections were shipped to 257 members who will enjoy lovely, reliable additions to their gardens. We are grateful to Mrs. Gibbs and friends for starting us on this garden path. ❀



*Mrs. W. Wayt Gibbs,
The Augusta
Garden Club*



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MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2019

An Evening with Margot Shaw

Kent-Valentine House 5-7 pm

www.gcvirginia.org/lilies to register

Foreword by
Charlotte Moss

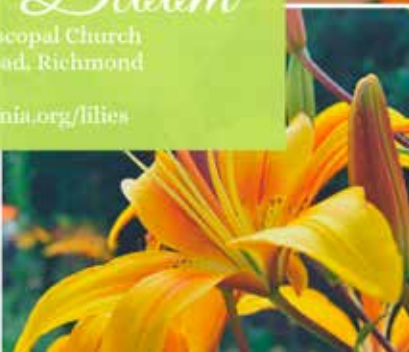


TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2019

Lilies in Bloom

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
12291 River Road, Richmond

www.gcvirginia.org/lilies



Garden Club of Virginia at 100 Steel Magnolias Marking a Milestone

by Karen Ellsworth, Director of Historic Garden Week and Special Programs

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 identify (and save) every tree on Richmond's Capitol Square, the results are the same – a greener, more beautiful Virginia. Today, as concern for environmental issues builds, that mission is more important than ever before.

“Our yearlong Centennial celebration culminates on May 13, 2020, the day the GCV was founded in 1920,” President Jean Gilpin shares. “We hope to bring attention to the public causes the Garden Club of Virginia has supported over the past century – the landscapes it has preserved – and to emphasize the importance of environmental engagement.” While the GCV is uncomfortable with the term “girl power,” and shy of the spotlight, its story is colorful, courageous and impressive.

“The Garden Club of Virginia was instrumental in the founding of the Virginia State Park system in the 1920s,” notes GCV Executive Director Lynn McCashin. “As our Centennial gift, we are giving the commonwealth \$500,000 in grants to support projects in the parks. This continues a tradition of championing state parks and protecting our natural landscapes.”



Centennial Steering Committee Chairman Missy Buckingham provides some background. “In the early 19th century there weren't outlets for educated women to become politically active. They couldn't vote yet. Some worked for suffrage. For others, the formation of garden clubs was a way to be impactful in their own backyards and communities. These women changed the landscape of our country.”

Under the guidance of its first committee, the conservation and beautification committee, efforts led to the preservation of trees along Virginia's highways. “It's kind of incredible to think about now, but highways were a new concept. Nearly a hundred years ago, our members were interested in the protection of lands intersected by these roads,” Jean further explains.

“We were among the first and the most ambitious groups to undertake landscape restoration projects,” she notes. With the patience that tending a garden brings, the fledgling group had far-reaching vision. “Without organized protection of this irreplaceable inheritance, the Garden Club of Virginia foresaw the inevitable destruction of Virginia's unique beauty,” Jean recounts.

“Looking ahead to its Centennial in 2020, the Garden Club of Virginia sought a project that would be lasting and visible, statewide in its reach and unite member clubs in communities both large and small,” Jean concludes. “It seemed appropriate that we should support Virginia State Parks again.” ❁



 GARDEN CLUB
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 1920-2020

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GCV Centennial Scarf

Local botanicals, both cultivated and from the wild, create a lush border complete with pollinators playing peek-a-boo. The color palette is soft, subtle and intended for year-round wear. 17" x 70" Hand-rolled and hemmed silk twill **\$100***



GCV Centennial Tervis Tumbler

This 16-oz. Tervis Tumbler has been customized with a bright green Centennial logo patch. Plan to stock up for all your entertaining needs.



\$20

Not available online

GCV Centennial Ties

Creating a subtle overall pattern of the signature GCV leaf logo, these handsome ties are 100% imported silk, and hand sewn in the USA. Neckties are offered in coral, blue and grass green; bow ties in blue and green.

A custom tie label completes this lovely commemorative keepsake.

\$85*

Waterford Crystal Ornament

This brilliant Waterford Crystal Disk Ornament is the perfect way to celebrate and commemorate the GCV Centennial. Offered as a limited edition, it also makes a lovely gift. 3.2" x 4"

\$75*



***\$5 flat rate shipping**



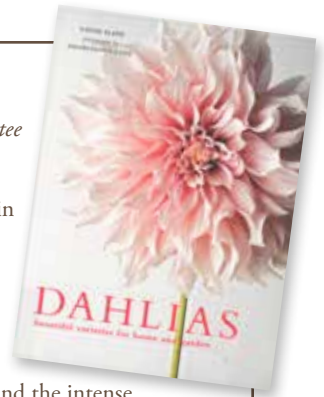
Ex Libris

by Virginia Cherry, GCV Library Committee
The Petersburg Garden Club

From small to plate-size blooms, dahlias are showstoppers in gardens. *Dahlias, Beautiful Varieties for Home and Garden* by author Naomi Slade and photographer Georgianna Lane (Gibbs Smith, 2018, 236 pp.) has been donated to the Kent-Valentine House library. As Slade explains, "There is nothing average about dahlias ... flowers with pizzazz and purpose, oozing personality and character. The bold, cheerful colors engage you ... the feisty, dramatic shapes seek to startle and the intense, mathematical flower forms captivate. Love them or hate them, it is just not possible to look a well-grown dahlia in the eye and feel nothing for it."

The book begins with an informative History and Botany of Dahlias and includes 68 dahlias which are described by flower type, average height and spread, flower size, foliage, staking and use as a cut flower. Vivid full-page photographs illustrate each dahlia, including Romantic Dahlias, Fabulous and Funky Dahlias, Dramatic and Daring Dahlias and Classic and Elegant Dahlias.

A section on growing and care extensively explains cultivation, selecting varieties, buying, climate, soil, planting, containers, feeding, staking, pinching out, deadheading, propagation, pests and diseases and growing for shows. The book contains a useful glossary. Lane's 170 photographs are a marvel, with their realism and superb color. Slade piques interest in adding dahlias to gardens, from spidery-looking flowers to pom-pom blooms to very large blossoms. 🌸



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Menokin: Re-imagining a Ruin

by Helen Murphy

The Garden Club of the Northern Neck

On a rural road that winds through Virginia's Northern Neck region is a historic marker which reads: "Near here is Menokin, home of Francis Lightfoot Lee, signer of the Declaration of Independence." Turning down that farm road lined with fields of corn and wheat, an imposing architectural ruin rises from the fields, resting on the edge of a plateau that abruptly drops off into the remains of 18th-century terraced gardens. This ruin is Menokin, a National Historic Landmark originally built circa 1769 as a home for Francis Lightfoot Lee and his wife, Rebecca Tayloe Lee.

This ruin was designated as a National Historic Landmark because of Lee's contribution to American history. It is also one of Virginia's best examples of original colonial architecture. Built high upon a creek off the Rappahannock River, the ruin is nestled among 500 nearly untouched acres of historic landscape, 325 of which are now under easement with the Rappahannock River Valley National Refuge. What sets Menokin apart is not its history but, rather, its future.

The Menokin Foundation has embarked on an \$8.5 million historic initiative to replace the missing walls, floors and roof portions of Menokin's 18th-century ruin with structural glass, allowing visitors to see and experience the remaining original construction from more than 250 years ago. The fusion of architecture and history will create something entirely new in the field of historic preservation and interpretation. It epitomizes the blend of antiquated and modern, providing a deeper understanding of the connections between history, architecture, the building arts and the landscape.

Menokin transcends the traditional museum experience. Today, visitors can take a hard hat tour of the ruin to learn about the intricacies of the architecture and the landscape. You are invited to touch the raw components of the house in order to truly connect to the people who built it. In addition, there are trails throughout the property, including a trail along which historic daffodils bloom every spring.

In 2018, Menokin was featured during Historic Garden Week in the Northern Neck and served as the tour headquarters. Menokin is grateful for its partnership with the Garden Club of the Northern Neck and looks forward to working together to further Menokin's mission as it celebrates its 250th anniversary this year. 🌸

To learn more or schedule a tour, visit menokin.org.



2019 GCV Landscape Architecture Research Fellowships

by Judy B. Perry, GCV Research Fellowships Committee Chairman
The Elizabeth River Garden Club

On April 1, the Garden Club of Virginia research fellowships committee announced the 2019 recipients: Dania Khlaifat as the Rudy J. Favretti Fellow and Hayden Hammons as the William D. Rieley Fellow. During their time in Virginia, Khlaifat and Hammons will visit, research and document their respective historic sites with emphasis on the landscape. The fellows work independently and with supervision by GCV Landscape Architect Will Rieley.

Khlaifat will research Farmington, the late-1700s plantation of George Divers, good friend of Thomas Jefferson. Farming and horticulture cemented this friendship and, from 1803-1804, Divers added two Jefferson-designed additions. Significant gardens and farm acreage on this Charlottesville property have been hailed as an important part of the area's heritage. Khlaifat, a Fulbright scholar from Amman, Jordan, graduated in May with a master's degree in landscape architecture, with a focus on cultural landscape management, from the University of Massachusetts. She earned her BA in architecture in 2014 at Al Ahliyya Amman University. Her interest in landscape preservation was inspired by her country's culture and heritage. Khlaifat's thesis topic is the cultural landscape of As-Salt, Jordan -- a potential World Heritage Site. She was granted a scholarship to research and complete the thesis proposal, which will be presented as part of the World Heritage Site selection criteria. The strengths of her architecture, landscape architecture and cultural landscape management backgrounds bring a multidisciplinary approach to the fellowship research on the Farmington property.



Dania Khlaifat

Hammons will research Mount Airy, a property in Warsaw, that has been held by the same family since the mid-1600s. The historic house was built in the mid-1700s by John Tayloe II and was the center of plantation and political life of the era. The house is surrounded by 1400 acres, and remnants of the original terraced gardens remain. Hammons will earn his master's degree in landscape architecture from Louisiana State University in 2020. He earned his BA in history from LSU in 2012 and took courses toward an MA in history at Mississippi College. His enthusiasm for historic preservation and southern gardening was instilled in him by his father. Hammons has actively participated in the restoration of a 75-acre native prairie site threatened by invasive species. He most recently worked on a streetscape design for a 4.3-mile urban corridor in Baton Rouge for an impending Bus Rapid Transit program. His keen interest in history and preservation inspired him to apply for a GCV fellowship. 🌸



Hayden Hammons

Further information about the GCV Landscape Architecture Research Fellowships can be found at gcvfellowship.org.

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Laura Wheelwright, Founder of Historic Garden Week, Included on the New Virginia Women's Monument

The Garden Club of Virginia is pleased to announce that Laura Wheelwright, a GCV past president and the founder of Historic Garden Week, has been selected to be included on the Wall of Honor of the new Voices from the Garden: The Virginia Women's Monument. The monument, located on the Capitol grounds in Richmond, "is the nation's first monument designed to celebrate the remarkable women who made significant, but often unrecognized, contributions and accomplishments in a variety of fields and endeavors over the 400-year history of Virginia." Following is the nomination written by Heidi James, the Lynchburg Garden Club, and submitted by the GCV Centennial committee.



The Wheelwrights and their daughter, Laura Martin, tour the garden at the family home, Buckhead Springs, near Centralia, in this c. 1920 photograph.

Mrs. Thomas Stewart Wheelwright (Laura C. Martin)
November 25, 1871– February 2, 1948

Laura Wheelwright dedicated her life to the rescue and restoration of historic gardens in the State of Virginia. Thanks to her intelligence, ingenuity and ceaseless energy, many of Virginia's most significant historic gardens still exist today. They might have vanished forever had she not had the foresight to recognize their fragility and subsequently implement an ingenious way to save and maintain them. Today, visitors from all over the world travel to Virginia to see these magnificent gardens, and they have become a treasure for our state and country.

Laura C. Martin was born in Memphis, Tennessee, and married Thomas Stewart Wheelwright on Nov. 15, 1905. They had two children, Thomas, Jr. and Laura Martin. They lived in Chesterfield County near Centralia in a historic house called Buckhead Springs. Mr. Wheelwright was the President and Director of Virginia Railway and Power Company and Old Dominion Iron and Steel Works.

Upon moving to Richmond as a young bride, Mrs. Wheelwright quickly got involved in civic and cultural activities. She served with the American Red Cross, the Women's Suffrage Movement and the Federal Fuel Administration during World War I. She was a founding member of the James River Garden Club in 1915, later serving as its president three times. She then helped form the Garden Club of Virginia in 1920 and served as its president two times. And she, along with several other women in the James River Garden Club, wrote a successful book called *Historic Gardens of Virginia*, which was reprinted several times. It was in her role as chairman of the GCV's restoration committee and as a founder of the GCV's Historic Garden Week, however, that she really made a difference in our state.

In 1928, the GCV held one of its biannual meetings in Fredericksburg at Kenmore, the 18th-century home of George Washington's sister, Betty, and her husband, Fielding Lewis. Kenmore had fallen into disrepair and a special committee had been formed to raise money to save the house from demolition. It occurred to the Kenmore Committee that the gardens would need restoration, as well. They suggested that the GCV would be the perfect organization to take on that aspect of the project. Mrs. Wheelwright, chairman of the GCV restoration committee agreed, but realized that the GCV did not have the resources to pay for the garden restoration. She asked renowned Richmond landscape architect Charles Gillette and James Greenleaf of the Landscape Architects of America for their input. Gillette agreed to come up with a garden plan with the help of Greenleaf. Their plan would cost \$5,000 to implement.

Mrs. Wheelwright was undaunted. She and some of her garden club friends were brainstorming about how to raise funds when it was suggested that they ask homeowners of historic properties all across the state to open their houses and gardens to visitors for one day and charge admission. Thus, Historic Garden Week was launched, with Wheelwright serving as chairwoman. The first tour was in April 1929 and they raised \$14,000, more than enough to pay for the gardens at Kenmore.

Following that first successful tour, the GCV received a letter from Governor Harry Byrd, which read: "On behalf of Virginia I wish to extend to you great appreciation for the success of Historic Garden Week. I know of no movement in Virginia that has done more to advance the interests of the state...."

Today, Historic Garden Week is Virginia's oldest volunteer tourism project. For more than 80 years, the GCV has hosted the nation's only statewide house and garden tour, which has contributed to state and regional economies. Tour proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of more than 40 of Virginia's historic public gardens and landscapes, a research fellowship program and a GCV project with Virginia State Parks. The economic impact of Historic Garden Week over the past 45 years is estimated to be more than \$425 million. Without Laura Wheelwright's dedication, gardens at historic sites including Kenmore, Monticello, Mount Vernon, Bacon's Castle, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden and the Virginia State Arboretum near Winchester, to name just a few, would not be what they are today. 🌸

*In grateful memory, we acknowledge
her many accomplishments, her pioneering
spirit, her keen foresight, and that splendid
ardor which stamped all that she touched with a
very special excellence.*

A tribute to Laura Wheelwright after her death, by the Garden Club of Virginia

NUMBER OF HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITORS: 99
NUMBER OF HORTICULTURAL STEMS: 1419
NUMBER OF ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENTS: 38

*Photo credit:
Penny Dart and Edie Hessberg*

Artistic Awards



Interclub Parallel, Parade of Blooms,
The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore
Quad Blue,
The Mrs. Littleton H. Mears Trophy



Interclub Late Georgian,
Promenade of "Late" Bloomers,
The Garden Club of the Northern Neck
Blue ribbon



Tussie Mussie, Mary North Cooper,
The Warrenton Garden Club
The Hunter Hankins Savage Novice Award



Individual, Traditional Line Mass,
Frankie Smith,
The Martinsville Garden Club
Blue ribbon

For more photos and a complete list of winners,
Grateful appreciation extended to Mary Wynn and Charles McDaniel

DAFFODIL DAY

2019

Horticulture Awards



Dianne Spence, the Williamsburg Garden Club, received trophies from GCV President Jean Gilpin, including the Elizabeth Clopton Brown Member Sweepstakes Trophy for the member exhibitor with the greatest number of blue ribbons. She also received the ADS Silver Ribbon for the most blue ribbons in horticulture. Her vase of 'Smooth Trumpet' received the Helen Louise Broyhill Trophy and the ADS White Ribbon for the best three-stem standard exhibit.



'Green Arrow,'

Jeanette Cadwallender,
The Rappahannock Valley
Garden Club

- Member Clubs' Award:
Best standard bloom in show
- ADS Gold Ribbon:
Best standard daffodil in show
- ADS Small Growers' Ribbon:
Best daffodil



Louise Morris Goodwin Bowl,
Karen Cogar, The Hunting Creek Garden Club
ADS Purple Ribbon:

- Best collection of 5 different standard stems
- ADS Red-White-Blue Ribbon:
Best collection of 5 different standard cultivars,
one stem each, of American breeding



Daffodil Day Chairman
Adele Smith, The Garden
Club of the Middle Peninsula



Catriona Erler, Albemarle Garden Club,
Claire Smithers Mellinger Award
Rhythm: Blue ribbon for color photograph
of daffodils in a landscape

go to gcvirginia.org and see Horticulture and Artistic Design.
and Hilldrup Transfer and Storage for support of the GCV flower shows.

Daffodil Notes

Daffodils Past, Present and Future

*by Janet G. Hickman, GCV Daffodil Committee Chairman
Hillside Garden Club*

Congratulations to all who participated in the Garden Club of Virginia's Daffodil Day on March 26, 2019. The Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden's education center was filled with the sights, sounds and fragrances of a successful daffodil show. Despite the variable spring weather, there were 1419 stems exhibited in horticulture by 90 individuals and nine clubs. The participation by so many people is one of the best things about the GCV show.



The most delightful moment of the show was when, at the very end of the judging, the winner of the Best in Small Growers and the Best in Show was revealed to be none other than 'Green Arrow,' entered by former GCV President Jeanette Cadwallender. No one had realized until the judging was complete that the flower receiving the top award was the GCV Centennial daffodil.

That was an amazing debut for the Centennial daffodil. Please take the time now to record your own planting, growing and blooming experience with 'Green Arrow' this year. A reporting form came with the bulbs last fall, and extra copies are available on the GCV website. Now is the time to fill them out, detailing your observations in your garden. Send them in as instructed on the form so our collective experience can be compiled. Then watch next spring to see how 'Green Arrow' fares in its second year.

Now is also the time to order the 2019 GCV daffodil collection. Information has been sent to club daffodil chairmen and presidents and is also posted on the website. Last year's collection introduced samples of the first five of the thirteen daffodil divisions. This year's collection continues with samples of divisions 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11. Why is there no number 10? Most division 10 daffodils are miniatures of the hoop petticoat style and are not shown with standard daffodils so don't belong in an Interclub show entry.

With the Centennial year 2020 approaching, we look back on the history of the daffodil test collection. The first test collection in 1930 included 55 daffodils to be planted and evaluated by club daffodil chairmen. Check out this list of interesting historic daffodils on the GCV website and see how many you can find to plant and enter in next year's show. There will be a special class for these old varieties with a trophy honoring Frances Lewis, the Garden Club of Gloucester, a former GCV club daffodil chairman who was herself a centenarian. 🌱

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IMAGE Parrot, Rome, 19th century, unidentified artist, micromosaic set in gold as a pendant, with four sets of 4-mm tsavorite and 2.7-mm demantoid garnets on bezel; 50 x 45 mm. Collection of Elizabeth Locke



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GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA

Historic Garden Week 2019



The Garden Club of Virginia's horticultural programming inspires one of Historic Garden Week's greatest attractions: more than 2,300 fabulous arrangements created by club members using greenery and flowers from their gardens.



Incoming Historic Garden Week Chairman Tricia Garner (left) with fellow Rappahannock Valley Garden Club members Mary Elizabeth McManus, Kelly Johnson and Tricia McDaniel



Historic Garden Week Chairman Stephanie Broadwater (Nansemond River, second from left) with Wendy Vaughn (Princess Anne), Emily Mills (Virginia Beach) and Susan Wight (Princess Anne)



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For questions about giving to GCV, contact Lexie Haglund at
development@gcvirginia.org, or a development committee member.

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Presented by the
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Rose Notes

Roses for First Time Growers

by Patsy Smith, GCV Rose Committee Chairman
Winchester-Clarke Garden Club

Have you considered growing roses? Although the idea may seem daunting, rose care is easier than you might think. Shrub roses and floribundas are no more difficult to care for than other flowering shrubs. Roses have several basic requirements in order to flourish.

Most roses require a minimum of six hours of direct sunlight per day. If you have partial shade (four hours of sunlight a day), however, many old garden roses may still thrive and would be an excellent choice. Pastel blooms brighten dappled areas. Roses need balanced soil with a pH of 6.0-6.5. To test the balance of acidity and alkalinity, use a reliable pH meter. This tool can also serve you well for your other plantings. Good drainage is required. Test your planting area for drainage by digging a hole 18 inches wide and 18 inches deep. Fill the hole with water and wait for 30 minutes. If in this time the water has all drained away, you have sufficient drainage. Roses hate living in a swimming pool. Roses must be fed and watered routinely and well to thrive. There are many suggested feeding programs, but you can also use time release or organic fertilizers that break down slowly. These types are the best for newly planted roses which should not be fertilized with anything else until after the first blooming cycle.

Keeping your roses strong and healthy is the best way to defend them from pests and disease. Hybridizers have worked hard to develop plants with disease resistance, self-cleaning and shorter, repeat blooming times. Select plants according to your soil, space and time allotment. What other plant besides the rose gives you blooms for six months of the year?

Here are some tried-and-true roses recommended for first time growers:

‘Carefree Beauty’: reliable, repeat-blooming, pink shrub

‘Belinda’s Dream’: fragrant, pink shrub; blooms look like hybrid tea

‘Iceberg’: vigorous, white floribunda

‘Julia Child’: vigorous, yellow, repeat bloomer

‘Don Juan’: deep-red climber; blooms make good cut flowers on long stems

‘Mr. Lincoln’: fragrant, reliable, red hybrid tea

‘Peace’: yellow-to-pink hybrid tea

‘Queen Elizabeth’: pink grandiflora; one of the most widely grown roses

‘Knock Out®’: vigorous, disease-resistant shrub in several colors; repeat bloomer

‘Queen Elizabeth’ was my first rose. Stately and vigorous, covered with large pink blooms, she gave me much joy and pride as a new grower. The love continued for years, and I moved this rose with me to my next home. I wish you success as you consider what rose will bring you great joy and beauty! 🌹

A Horticulture Show Honoring GCV's 100 Years of Conservation

by Kim Cory, GCV Horticulture Committee
Albemarle Garden Club

Honor the Garden Club of Virginia's century of contribution to conservation, native plants and our state parks by joining us at Natural Bridge State Park for a horticulture show, focusing on native plants. The show will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 24, the day before the GCV's 61st Annual Conservation Forum. Growing these plants in the garden is an important way to help our environment. Native plants are adapted to our climate and, once established, should not need watering, pesticides or fertilizers. Additionally, local pollinators rely on native plants as a food source. The show's horticulture schedule includes many classes of wildflowers but also focuses on the Canopy of Conservation, our native trees.

Grab your green glass bottles and beautiful horticulture specimens and come to what Thomas Jefferson described as "the most sublime of Nature's works," – Natural Bridge. A few green bottles will be available at the show, along with some grooming supplies and entry cards. Remember to present your exhibit in the best possible way by ridding it of dirt, dust and bugs. Choose a container that is an appropriate size. For branches, use sand, pebbles or rocks in the bottom of the bottle to help balance the exhibit. Wedge the specimen so that it stands up straight and proud in the container, using moss, twigs, yew, other greenery or plant material. We will not be using cotton balls, plastic wrap or boxwood for wedging material.

The only class that requires advance registration is the last class – Picnic in the Park. Show off your culinary and creative skills by entering a display featuring a food item with an ingredient from your garden. Think of jam or salsa, baked goods or soup – wherever your culinary talent leads you. To register for a sweet, savory or spicy entry, email kimcory@mac.com.

Details about the show can be found at gcvirginia.org under Announcements, "Back to Nature." ❁

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Join us at Natural Bridge this September!



Celebrate the GCV's Founders Day in Richmond.

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020

- **Evening reception at the Kent-Valentine House:** Come see your “home” refurbished and refreshed while visiting with GCV friends from all over the state.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020

- **Speaker Thomas L. Woltz at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture** (open to the public): *Garden & Gun* calls this rising star “a landscape architect committed to conservation and improving the world we live in.”
- **Luncheon** at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
- **Afternoon includes self-guided tours of seven GCV restoration sites** and an opportunity to shop or enjoy local sites
- **Evening Gala and Grand Opening of the exhibition, “A Landscape Saved: Garden Club of Virginia at 100,”** at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture: The story of the Garden Club of Virginia is colorful, courageous and impressive. Be the first to see it brought to life.

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

- **Flower Arranging Demonstration with Paula Pryke** at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture (open to the public): Learn style secrets from this London-based floral designer honored by Queen Elizabeth and sought after by A-list clientele.

Photo courtesy of Warren Faught



Common Wealth Award Nominations Announced

by Karla MacKimmie, Common Wealth Award Committee Chairman
The Warrenton Garden Club

The Common Wealth Award Committee is happy to announce two finalists for the 2019 Common Wealth Award. This award, established by the Garden Club of Virginia in 1979, provides annual grants to fund community projects of member clubs in the areas of conservation, beautification, horticulture, preservation or education. The two-word name, Common Wealth, signifies the “wealth” that is “common” to all Virginians.

Garden Club of Virginia member clubs will vote on the projects prior to the Board of Governors meeting in October, at which time the winner will be announced. The finalists are as follows:

Peter Paul Development Center and Playground Enhancement

Submitted by the Boxwood Garden Club

In the heart of the East End of Richmond, in the midst of Richmond’s four public housing communities, lies Peter Paul Development Center. This community center acts as a bastion of hope for the youth of one of the most underserved populations in the area.

In 2018, the Boxwood Garden Club’s membership voted unanimously to partner with Peter Paul Development Center to create a garden space in the vacant lot adjacent to the center. More than 70% of the club’s membership has donated to this project to transform the vacant lot into a playground and green space for the community’s children.

Boxwood’s plan is to plant trees for shade and native plants along the property border and throughout the green space and playground. The addition of synthetic turf is planned for inside the playground, aiding in conservation by reducing water and chemicals. The goal is to provide a cherished spot where children and families can interact with a simple and beautiful green space and to become an educational resource to the students attending the center.

A Common Wealth Award will ensure completion of this much needed improvement to a community in need, while supporting GCV’s mission of supporting natural and native green space in Virginia.

“Peter Paul is an outreach and community center serving Richmond’s East End. Founded in 1979, it is the oldest community-based agency continually serving East End children and families. We live our promise and programming through our purpose statement—Educate the Child, Engage the Family, and Empower the Community.”

The Discovery Trail: Connecting Children With Nature

Submitted by the Mill Mountain Garden Club

What happens to children when they interact with trees, native plants, wildlife and water? Such experiences are fun, educational and inspirational. Scientific studies confirm that many children suffer from “nature deficit disorder.” The Mill Mountain Garden Club has worked almost 50 years creating and maintaining a unique 2.5-acre mountaintop wildflower garden and native plant sanctuary. Despite this free, public garden space being open to the community, the current mulch trail

that carries visitors across the property is not stroller or wheelchair accessible. The Common Wealth Award would provide funds for a redesigned “discovery trail.” This environmentally sensitive, crushed stone trail will be user friendly, opening the garden for all visitors.

With this revitalized trail, thousands of visitors can discover the magic of nature. But those who benefit the most are the children who are exposed to key educational concepts woven throughout the trail. The “wayfinding” on the trail encourages children to discover tree identification, pollinator and wildflower education, and pondside water play, among the many educational opportunities. The Common Wealth Award will allow the Mill Mountain Garden Club to develop the discovery trail and extend the magic of nature to all who enter. ❁

Mugwort (a dirty word)

by Polly Talbott
The Charlottesville Garden Club

Common mugwort, *Artemisia vulgaris*, is one of several species in the genus *Artemisia*. Also known as chrysanthemum weed, felon herb or naughty man, its nicknames suggest a noxious plant. Traditionally it has been used as a flavoring and bittering agent for fermented grain beverages. It can be used medicinally as a pain reliever, fever reducer and diuretic agent.

Leafing out in silvery-green abundance, mugwort lifts its naughty head. It's easy to mistake mugwort's frilly, lobed leaves for chrysanthemum leaves but, if rubbed, its bittersweet smell gives it away. A rhizomatous perennial that spreads rapidly, it is one of the most invasive weeds of nursery and landscape plantings. Along with bamboo, it is quickly becoming one of our worst roadside weeds because people dig it out of their gardens and improperly dispose of it. Thanks to its extensive root system, it is persistent and will bounce back in even greater abundance after repeated weeding and mowing.

So, what does one do about this pain in the garden? Getting rid of mugwort is a true test of patience and dedication. I have had the weed in my garden for four years and thought I could conquer the beast. But the more I weeded, the worse it got. I resorted to chemicals. KleenUp® (glyphosate) has been the most effective. I have had to spot spray with KleenUp® for more than a year, yet I still have remnants of the weed. One session just won't do it. Alternatively, I've read that one can simply spread a black tarp or cardboard over the area and smother the plant. Here's hoping you never get this insidious weed in your garden. ❁



Editor's Note: The GCV conservation committee does not endorse the use of glyphosates. Please share other successful, nonchemical means of eradication.



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Would You Like to be an Oyster Gardener?

by Wendy Vaughn
The Princess Anne Garden Club

After volunteering with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for several years, I was curious about their oyster gardening program. Last summer I decided to assist with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Oyster Round-up events, held around the southern bay from Wachapreague to Virginia Beach, to Hampton, Smithfield and up to Lancaster. The events included information about new oyster gardening, oyster biology, restoration, how to become an oyster gardener and why oysters play a critical role in the health of the bay and its tributaries. Many children attended these events with their parents or grandparents, and some were able to ride on the CBF oyster boat to a reef where they helped plant oysters that they had grown during the past year.



Do you know that a single oyster can clean 50 gallons of water each day? This is why CBF is a partner in the Chesapeake Oyster Alliance – a coalition of nonprofits, community organizations, oyster growers and others committed to adding 10 billion new oysters to the bay by 2025. It is only with a healthy Chesapeake oyster population that a restored bay is possible.

Volunteers are part of this effort. My small cage of spat-on-shell – baby oysters the size of hole punches attached to recycled oyster shells – has grown from one to three cages. This summer I will turn in my 200 to 225 one-year-old oysters which will join thousands more to be planted onto sanctuary non-harvest reefs to help clean the water and multiply. I look forward to this season's events and to working with all the returning and new oyster gardeners.

For questions regarding CBF's oyster gardening, email OysterGardener@cbf.org or call 757-644-4125. To see the complete schedule of events and to register, go to www.cbf.org/vaoystergardening. Registration is free. A donation of \$25 pays for a cage of spat-on-shell to begin your own oyster garden. Join us and be a part of the 10 billion oyster challenge. 🌱



Photograph courtesy of Charlottesville Wine and Country Living

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Replace Your Floral Foam

by Tory Willis, GCV Artistic Design Committee Chairman
The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club

Several years ago a fellow arranger commented to me that she had stopped using floral foam for her arrangements, explaining that the material was not biodegradable. I was surprised to learn the floral industry had not developed a material that could hold flowers in place without harming the environment. Oasis®, as it is commonly known, has been around since the 1950s.

I recalled that when my husband's grandmother passed away, I had inherited her floral pin frogs. These old-fashioned, heavy items, in a variety of styles, held stems in place. Some had pins which looked like a tetanus shot waiting to happen, while others were made of glass with small holes in them for holding the flowers. I attempted to use these frogs. I had better luck with the ones that had the rusty metal pins in them than the glass holes, but had limited success. Oasis® provided me the stability and the ability to arrange easily.

Over time, conservation-conscious club members continued to encourage others to reduce the use of floral foam. I recently considered this problem again. As sometimes occurs, fate and flowers collided. At the Fall Symposium 2018, a floral plastic pillow design and the opportunity to use this alternative at a workshop occurred. I accepted the challenge.

There are many alternatives to floral foam which are environmentally friendly, including chicken wire inserted into the 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 an option that permits a dash of color without the requirement to hide mechanics. Wire of different colors is available at most hardware stores and can be molded into different shapes. Bent sticks can be fastened together for a more natural look. A bright-colored section of hose can be used, with holes cut into it for the flowers. A grid design in tape, covering the opening of a container, also works well. Grandmothers' flower frogs are still a good choice when arranging. 🌸



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Errata

On page 4 of the March 2019 *Journal*, the In Memoriam 2018 list should include Janet Colquhoun Whitehead of the Garden Club of the Eastern Shore.



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Submission

Dates and events as posted on the GCV website,
gcvirginia.org. See website for further additions.