



GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA
JOURNAL

Late Summer/Early Fall 2022 | Volume LXVII | No. 3

INSIDE

GCV Symposium & Conservation Forum | The Brilliance of Thomas Woltz | Japanese Maples

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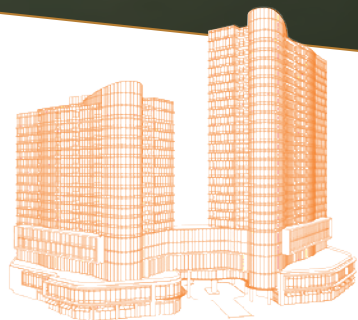
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Late Summer/Early Fall 2022 | Volume LXVII | No. 3

THE MISSION OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA:

To conserve the gifts of nature, to restore and preserve historic landscapes of the commonwealth, to cultivate the knowledge and love of gardening and to lead future generations to build on this heritage.

THE GCV JOURNAL

The Garden Club of Virginia *Journal* is published quarterly and is designed to address the interests and promote the activities of the Garden Club of Virginia and its member clubs. Organized to enhance and strengthen communication within the GCV, the *Journal* focuses on the mission of the organization: conservation and beautification, horticulture, restoration and education. Approximately 3,600 copies of each issue are mailed to members and subscribers.

A PDF version is available online at gcvirginia.org.

SUBMISSIONS

The *Journal* welcomes submissions by GCV committees, clubs and club members, as well as article ideas related to the GCV's mission and its initiatives and events. As a matter of editorial policy, all submissions will be edited for clarity of expression, space, style compliance, grammar, syntax, structure and messaging. Unsolicited material will be considered, but submission does not guarantee publication. For questions, please contact journal@gcvirginia.org.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE & DEADLINES

| ISSUES — 2022-2023 | PUBLISHES IN | SUBMISSION DEADLINE |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Fall 2022 | November 2022 | September 1, 2022 |
| Winter 2023 | February 2023 | December 1, 2022 |
| Spring 2023 | May 2023 | March 1, 2023 |
| Summer 2023 | August 2023 | June 1, 2023 |

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CORRECTIONS:

We regret the following errors in the spring 2022 issue of the *Journal*:

- The origin of Historic Kenmore in Fredericksburg was incorrectly attributed in the Editor's Letter on page 6. It was built by George Washington's sister, Betty Washington Lewis, and her husband, Fielding.
- Massie Medal recipient Vicky Alexander was misidentified in the caption on page 9.
- Ashley Wallace was misidentified in the caption on page 20.

Corrections have been made in the digital issue.



12



16



14

TOP: Japanese Maple, *photo courtesy of Bartlett Tree Exports*

ABOVE: *Courtesy of the Big Water Visitor Education Center at Kiptopeke State Park*

ABOVE RIGHT: GCV Symposium in 2019, *photo courtesy of Penny Dart*

COVER ART: *Bursting Prisms of Orange*, by Jane Hammond, Dolley Madison Garden Club

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DON'T MISS THE GCV SYMPOSIUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS — Get a full overview of the exciting two-day schedule at the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond, all on page 21, and mark your calendars for Tuesday and Wednesday, September 20-21.

ON THE COVER: ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

JANE HAMMOND



At Lilies in Bloom, the lily show held in June in Fredericksburg, Jane Hammond's photo, Bursting Prisms of Orange, generated lots of buzz. One attendee commented that it looked like bargello needlework, another was sure it wasn't photography at all. Yet another marveled over its similarity to crewel work.

In actuality, Jane shot a cluster of Lilium, 'Eremo' in her Orange, Virginia, garden, then used a Photoshop filter called "extrude" in order to achieve the unique result. The lilies—Longiflorum x Asiatic (LA hybrid), also referred to as Easter x Asiatic—look elongated, almost needlelike, thanks to the filter's stylized effects.

"I love sharing my passion for horticulture and photography with others," Jane says. "I am always aware that I can constantly learn from gardening and the natural world." A member of Dolley Madison Garden Club since 2009, Jane currently serves as its president. "I have been a photographer for as long as I can remember," she says, recalling that her very first camera was a Brownie. Now she carries her camera with her all the time. "I am never without it. It's so rewarding to find beauty all around us."

—Madeline Mayhood, The James River Garden Club



ABOVE: : Bursting Prisms of Orange, by Jane Hammond, Dolley Madison Garden Club

BELOW: Jane Hammond's original photo; courtesy of Jane Hammond



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It is an incredible honor to serve as the 52nd President of the Garden Club of Virginia, and I am humbled to have the opportunity to lead this remarkable organization for the next two years. Together we are charged to carry forth the vision of our founders who, over a century ago, created a path to champion efforts to preserve the natural beauty and resources of our commonwealth.

As we began our second century of history in 2020, we were challenged—through many obstacles and swiftly changing times—to keep our esteemed GCV vigorously active. We were at a pivotal moment that presented the need to ask ourselves, Where are we? What is our vision for the future? How do we achieve the goals set forth in our mission? A Strategic Planning Committee was formed, and after an intensive two-year process, the Strategic Plan 2022—The Path Forward—was adopted at the Annual Meeting in May.

With updated mission and vision statements and five areas of focus, we are poised to build upon the legacy and traditions of our past as we ensure that the Garden Club of Virginia continues its notable mission impact for the next generation.

OUR MISSION: To conserve the gifts of nature, to restore and preserve historic landscapes of the commonwealth, to cultivate the knowledge and love of gardening and to lead future generations to build on this heritage.

OUR VISION: Through coordinated efforts, our statewide organization is committed to ensuring an environmentally sound Virginia, honoring the integrity of its significant historic landscapes, and informing and inspiring others to do the same.

The Strategic Plan 2022 outlines our goals and objectives for the next two years. The Board of Directors and GCV staff are committed to work together to advance our mission through education, engagement and outreach and to provide value and expanded opportunities for the GCV membership. With a financially sound organization and well-structured governance, we will ensure an informed and engaged membership.

Your talent, time and dedication make achieving the worthy mission of this great organization possible, and I offer my sincerest gratitude to each of you. Collectively we will make a difference, and I am inspired and excited as we begin our journey together to pave the path forward for the Garden Club of Virginia.

Handwritten signature of Debbie Lewis

Debbie Lewis
GCV President, 2022-2024



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GROW YOUR KNOWLEDGE



If you've never heard Thomas Woltz present, you're in for a real treat at this year's Symposium at which he is a keynote speaker. How he can be such a riveting and accessible brainiac is anyone's guess, but one thing's for sure, he's got that covered. His presentation, "New Visions for the Old Dominion: Social and Ecological Sustainability in the Designed Landscapes of Nelson Byrd Woltz" is sure to challenge and engage every audience

member. That you'll leave enriched—and maybe even a little smarter—is a given. Read about Thomas and his firm in the pages that follow. And don't miss Allison Clock's magical first visit to Machicomoco State Park. An NBW design, it's one of the latest and most successful additions to Virginia's state park system.

I've long been obsessed with the photography of Robert Llewellyn and consider myself somewhat of a superfan. His work focuses on the nooks and crannies of seeds and blooms that aren't typically seen in landscape photography. He's also a keynote speaker at the Symposium, and his is a presentation I won't miss. Shaun Spencer-Hester, granddaughter of Harlem Renaissance poet and Lynchburg gardener Anne Spencer is also a speaker, along with Françoise Weeks, haute couture designer of foraged botanicals. We profiled both of these extraordinary women in previous *Journal* issues, and you can find them in back issues or on the GCV's website.

The Sept. 20-21 Symposium, *Grow Your Knowledge*, delivers big this year, thanks to co-chairs Jennifer Kelley and Dawn Byrd. These two dynamos, from The Garden Club of Alexandria and The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore, have set the bar exceptionally high. After several challenging years, when many of us put our lives on pause, they've planned an outstanding Symposium experience. We offer lots of information on this two-day extravaganza starting on page 16. For ticketing information, head to Symposium.GCVirginia.org.

We also give you a sneak peek at the upcoming November 3rd Conservation Forum. Don't miss the article on p. 26, detailing the Forum's focus: PFAS. Plus, the 2022 recipients of the GCV's Conservation Educator Award and the Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award for Meritorious Achievement in Conservation will be presented. And by the way, Marie Thomas, Conservation Award Chairman from The Augusta Garden Club, reveals who these conservation rock stars are. See "Applause: Awards & Accolades" on page 14.

The GCV has strengthened and tailored its mission and vision with a nod to the future, which President Debbie Lewis unveiled in *Membership News* and includes in her President's Letter. I'm proud to be a member of this vital organization as it confidently enters its second century. May this coming year be one of knowledge and growth for all of us.

Happy Reading!

Madeline Mayhood

Madeline Mayhood, GCV Journal Editor
journal@gcvirginia.org
The James River Garden Club





The **Pennsylvania Horticulture Society** is the Grande Dame of all things hort-related in the U.S. and probably most closely akin to the Royal Horticulture Society across the pond. The PHS hosts America's largest flower show, the Philadelphia Flower Show, and vigorously promotes horticulture and gardening and their many benefits throughout various community programs. It's no accident that its home, Philadelphia, is also known as "America's Garden Capital."

According to the PHS, five gardening trends emerged this year. Wherever you are in your landscape journey, consider incorporating these smart trends into your fall garden:

1 Utilize native and pollinator-friendly plants.
We can't say it enough: bees and other pollen-loving insects are vital to creating and maintaining ecosystems and food chains. And that means our ecosystem and our food chain. Check out the Virginia Native Plant Society's website for ideas or go to Audubon's website where native plants are listed by zip code.

2 Transform your lawn to garden space.
What's out? Über-green lawns. *What's in?* Pollinator, perennial, or vegetable gardens. Why should you care if you have some dandelions and wild violets in your yard? Because they morph your monocultured lawn into a biodiverse buffet for all the critters who depend on a variety of food sources. Another way to look at it is this: Could



Growing dwarf fruit and citrus trees has emerged as a bona fide gardening trend.

you live if you ate only bananas 365/24/7? Not so much. So transforming even a small patch of your yard from an environmentally unfriendly lawn will increase your positive environmental impact on so many levels.

3 Attend or host a plant swap.
Plant swaps are great for finding new plants to incorporate into your garden, increasing your hort knowledge and making friends along the way. And if you're hosting, don't limit it to just plants. Encourage folks to bring cuttings, gardening equipment, and containers to make available for exchange with other gardeners.

4 Try waterwise gardening or xeriscaping.
Anything that requires less water is a win for everyone. Waterwise or xeriscape gardening refers to landscaping in a way that reduces the need for irrigating, and it includes making smart choices about what plants to plant. Many pollinator-friendly perennials like *Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly weed) require less water to thrive than others. It's also critical to the lifecycle of the monarch butterfly.

5 Grow your own fruit.
This doesn't mean go plant an orchard. You can choose dwarf trees, which can thrive in smaller spaces. Choices abound and include figs, apples, and pears. Even citrus, timed correctly, can thrive in Virginia climates.



Crape Myrtle Bark Scale

It may be hard to hear for aficionados of crape myrtle, but a serious threat to these versatile landscape trees has arrived—CMBS, or the dreaded crape myrtle bark scale. First reported in Texas in 2004, these nasty creatures are on the march, and are now in at least 13 states. Sadly that includes Virginia.

According to Fairfax County Master Gardeners, *Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae* is a type of invasive felt scale from Asia related to azalea and oak scale. Fluffy white and gray tiny bumps with sooty mold appear on bark and twigs and can spread by wind, crawlers, animals and humans. Heavy infestations may extend to leaves and to nearby low-growing plants, grass, and mulch. Once an area is infested, it spreads rapidly, and can cause considerable damage, including stunted growth, branch die-back, reduced flowering and limited photosynthesis. Bartlett

Tree Experts entomologist Dr. Kevin Chase cautions that severe CMBS infestations can result in tree death.

Pay attention to the trees in your field of vision and inspect them for this destructive pest. One driver tooling along Arthur Ashe Boulevard in Richmond spotted it infesting the crape myrtles planted in the median, with the trees looking sad and weak.

Eric Day, a Virginia Tech entomologist, recommends the use of a systemic, soil-applied insecticide like imidacloprid as a form of treatment, while the Texas A&M Extension Service recommends applying a contact spray with an insecticide such as bifenthrin. For either the soil or spray method, the sooty mold, a black fungus which grows on honeydew (the excrement of scales) will remain unless it's

removed. Accumulations can be scrubbed off with a brush, water and dishwashing liquid. But the caveat is that manual removal must be frequent and thorough. Bartlett's Kevin Chase recommends a proactive, holistic approach by maintaining and encouraging plant health via root invigoration programs, appropriate irrigation and proper structural pruning, all of which will help crape myrtles defend themselves against CMBS.

If you see an infestation or would like to prevent one, contact your local extension service or arborist or visit Bartlett.com



Garden Trends

All About Trees

There's a nifty little book on trees that might just be the perfect companion to brush up on your tree ID acumen. *Casey Trees Species Guide*, published by Washington D.C.-based Casey Trees, is small, portable, spiral-bound and waterproof. It's compact enough to stow in your glove compartment as an on-the-go reference.

At a cool 100 pages, it includes details on evergreen and deciduous species including leaf and bark characteristics and growth habit, like size and shape—from maples to pines to oaks and sycamores. Accompanying photos help with species identification in months when the only clue on deciduous trees tends to be bark. While it claims to be specific to the D.C. area, it applies to a much broader geographic range. Casey is one of the world's leading authorities on urban tree canopy restoration. CaseyTrees.org



Photo courtesy of Casey Trees



DEADLINES FOR 2022 & 23 GCV MEDALS & AWARDS

- NOV. 1, 2022**
 - Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award
- DEC. 1, 2022**
 - Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement
- MARCH 1, 2023**
 - Common Wealth Award
 - de Lacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation
 - Horticulture Award of Merit
- JUNE 1, 2023**
 - Conservation Educator Award
 - Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award for Conservation

Visit GCVirginia.org for nomination details and forms, past recipients and additional award information.

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Common Wealth Award

BALLOT DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 30

The time is now to vote for the winner of the Common Wealth Award, the GCV award designed to promote projects in the interest of conservation, beautification, horticulture, preservation and education. The four 2022 finalists below demonstrate the best of the Garden Club of Virginia, as well as the depth and breadth of GCV clubs in action. Information about their projects was detailed in the spring *Journal* and can also be found in the last several editions of *Membership News* and on the GCV website. Member clubs must vote on the finalists in September and the 2022 recipient will be announced at the October Board of Governors meeting. Club ballots, supplied by the GCV, must be submitted or postmarked by September 30.

The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore:
BEAUTIFICATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE EASTERN SHORE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CAMPUS

The Garden Club of Norfolk:
GCN'S TRIBUTE TO FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED—GREENWAYS ALONG NORFOLK'S ELIZABETH RIVER TRAIL

Gabriella Garden Club:
HOME POCKET PARK

Three Chopt Garden Club:
HORTICULTURE THERAPY FOR PEDIATRIC PATIENTS AT VIRGINIA TREATMENT CENTER FOR CHILDREN (VTCC)

Lower farmers are making a huge splash, growing fields of old-fashioned zinnias, dahlias, poppies, sunflowers and much more. Some farms offer a pick-your-own option or by subscription, and fresh-cut bouquets are often available in farmers markets and natural markets. Flowers are seasonally available and fall bloomers, like asters and celosia, are especially lovely.



Classic
Flowers
make the
cut

Photo by Alicia from Pixabay

THE WINNING WAYS OF JAPANESE MAPLES

Here's nothing quite like Japanese maple. As an accent or a focal point, they're unbeatable in the landscape. Kaleidoscopic leaf colors are just one of its dynamic features—from shades of green and orange, chartreuse, yellow, gold, purple, red, even variegated. Leaf characteristics, like margins and shapes, are other appealing qualities.

The Japanese make leaf-peeping pilgrimages into the parks and gardens of Kyoto and Tokyo in the same way Americans rush to witness the magic of fall's changing colors along Skyline Drive and the New England countryside. In Japan's mountainous regions, steep slopes are awash in a Japanese maple phantasmagoria, always on queue for maximum impact.

Species and Categories

J.D. Vertrees, an entomologist, grower and an Oregon-based educator considered one of the West's foremost authorities on Japanese maples, grouped them into seven categories. Five are used by the U.K.-based

Maple Society, plus 12 more. The overlapping categories are *amoenum*, *dissectum*, *linearilobum*, *matsumurae*, and *palmatum*. Others include the species *A. shirasawanum*, *A. japonicum*, *A. capilipes*, *A. atropurpureum* and more.

Emery Normandie from the Maple Society simplifies things by asserting that a Japanese maple is really any maple that is native to Japan. While the Maple Society admits that *Acer palmatum* and *A. amoenum* are most commonly available, the society's recently implemented classification system was adopted to distinguish among the 17 identified species, which is generally based on

the division of the leaf lobes, variegation and color.

A feature that connects most Japanese maples is their relatively diminutive size, with some topping off at a height of just three feet. Most, however, are in the 5 to 25-foot range.

Tree architecture can be a Japanese maple's most stunning features, so pruning mature specimens to make its unique branching structure visible is recommended. This is best accomplished by a professional arborist.

The trees perform best in well-drained but moist, organic soil with slightly acidic pH. Performance is variable by species, but in general, they often suffer from leaf margin scorching in full sun locations. Deep shade will cause colored foliage to revert to green. Shallow roots will benefit from mulch to reduce soil temperature and moisture fluctuations.

Concerns and Solutions

Some concerns include *Verticillium* wilt, the Japanese maple's most common and lethal pathogen. Other common health issues include *Phytophthora* root rot and anthracnose foliar disease, defoliating caterpillars, and leaf-feeding beetles. Girdling roots can be another concern, which can slowly lead to dieback and mortality. Early season aphid infestations also occur. *Armillaria* (aka honey fungus) is known to cause decline and death of this species. Stressed plants may be attacked by ambrosia beetles.

To combat some of the challenges of growing Japanese maples, Bartlett's recommended management practices include treating soil with potassium phosphite to help prevent *Verticillium* wilt. While there is no direct remedy, this method may

also slow the decline in infected plants. Bartlett also recommends exposing root collars and inspecting for and removing any girdling roots.

If organic matter is less than five percent, add mulch and organic matter. Treat preventively against ambrosia beetles when plants are stressed.

There are thousands of Japanese maples, and it's impossible to say which is the winning species or cultivar. Taste and preference factor in. But if you're looking for a dynamic addition to your landscape, this is the tree to consider.

LEAF TERMINOLOGY

What's your leaf IQ?

Lobes on a leaf are projections that extend from a central point like fingers

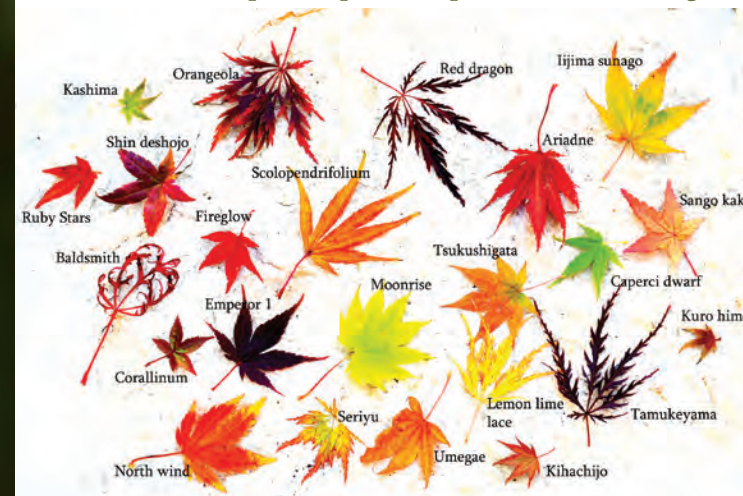
A **sinus** is the gap between the lobes.

A **petiole** is the stem that attaches the leaf to the branch of a tree.

The **margin** is the edge of the leaf.

The **veins** extend from the petiole up through the leaf to transport water.

The breadth and depth of Japanese maple leaves is astounding.



ABOVE RIGHT: Japanese maple. Photo by Eickhoff from Wikimedia Commons

RIGHT: *Acer shirasawanum* 'Moonrise'. Photo courtesy of Mr. Maple

FAR RIGHT: *Acer palmatum*. Photo by Jan Haerer from Pixabay

LEFT: Japanese maple in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Japanese Garden. Photo courtesy of Brooklyn Botanic Garden



Dramatic branching architecture and leaf color make this Japanese maple a standout. Photo courtesy of Bartlett

The thousands of Japanese maple cultivars span the gamut. From dwarf and weeping varieties to upright forms, differences in bark and wood color as well as leaf color, and variations in shape and texture, the distinguishing characteristics are extensive. Some species include:

***Acer dissectum*:** With foliage that looks like lace from a distance, *A. dissectum* is a standout. Up close, the leaves have long, deeply lobed and slender "fingers," so skinny that they look like separate leaves. The lace-like effect is amplified courtesy of heavily toothed margins.

Acer palmatum includes the most common species of Japanese maples. *Palmatum* Latin for "hand," is what defines this group. All the leaves have five lobes (rarely seven).

Red Wood: This group is defined by its bark, with bright red, coral, yellow or orange branches. They add color and contrast to the landscape, especially in winter, but they all tend to suffer from branch dieback. 'Sango-kaku' is a cultivar you might see.

Acer reticulatum has leaves with veins in a different color than the rest of the leaf. Also known as reticulated maple, these are real show stoppers.

Acer sessilifolium are defined by their lack of petioles. Sessile means lack of a stalk.





2022 Conservation Educator Award

Meet this year's two recipients:

The Garden Club of Virginia's Conservation Educator Award, established in 2016, is designed to recognize individuals and organizations whose work embodies the GCV ideals "... to conserve the gifts of nature, to restore and preserve historic landscapes of the Commonwealth, to cultivate the knowledge and love of gardening, and to lead future generations to build on this heritage." The recipients' work must create a learning situation which benefits the community. The two recipients of the 2022 Conservation Educator Award—Robin Dunbar, deputy director of education, the Elizabeth River Project in Norfolk, and The Big Water Visitor Education Center at Kiptopeke State Park in Cape Charles—actively promote the ideals of conservation through education.



ROBIN DUNBAR

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION OF THE ELIZABETH RIVER PROJECT, NORFOLK

Nominated by The Elizabeth River Garden Club.

Leading the education and outreach division of the Elizabeth River Project since 2000, Dunbar has focused on river ecology, conservation and the restoration of the Elizabeth River. One of her compelling ideas is the Learning Barge, a 120' x 32' vessel that serves as the world's first wetlands classroom and has benefitted over 54,000 students. When the pandemic shut down this unique learning center, Dunbar pivoted and created the Learning Barge on Wheels, a colorfully painted van that went into neighborhoods and school parking lots to reach children in an outdoor setting. Robin also developed the River Star Schools Program that leads the Wetlands in the Classroom initiative where students grow native wetland trees, grasses



Photos courtesy of Robin Dunbar and The Big Water Visitor Education Center at Kiptopeke State Park

and wildflowers from seed, which they later transplant to restoration sites around the river. The impact of her devoted work in developing, implementing and overseeing the Elizabeth River Project's education work in conservation and river restoration is significant.

THE BIG WATER VISITOR EDUCATION CENTER

KIPTOPEKE STATE PARK, CAPE CHARLES

Nominated by The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore.

The Big Water Visitor Education Center, opened in 2020 with the help of a Centennial Grant from the Garden Club of Virginia, is an interactive environmental education center that focuses on conservation, ecological research on native

species, as well as local history and land use. The interpretive displays represent the richly diverse landscape planted with native trees, shrubs and perennial species, creating a natural area which attracts native species for visitors to observe. There is a maritime forest display, exhibits for pollinators and raptors, as well as interpretation of the bluffs and Chesapeake Bay.

Aquariums and terrariums provide live animal displays and an up-close encounter of native fish and invertebrates. The Visitor Center serves the community through school field trips, meeting and presentation space for local organizations and educational programs and speakers throughout the year.

—Marie Thomas, GCV Conservation Awards Chair, The Augusta Garden Club



The 2022 Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award for Conservation

Meet this year's recipient:

SAVE RIVER FARM COMMITTEE

Nominated by the Blue Ridge Garden Club.

Save River Farm Committee is the 2022 recipient of the Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award for Conservation that recognizes outstanding work in conservation by an organization, industry or individual.



Save River Farm Committee Saves American Horticultural Society's Historic Headquarters

Photos courtesy of River Farm



River Farm, on the banks of the Potomac River south of Old Town Alexandria, was originally part of George Washington's land holdings. It remained in the family through the 1850s.

The next century saw a succession of owners until Edith Annenberg Haupt, philanthropist, gardener, and AHS board member helped thwart a move by the Soviet Embassy to convert the property into a dacha for its staff. She was instrumental in securing River Farm as the American Horticultural Society (AHS) headquarters.

This historically significant landscape was redesigned by the Olmsted Bros. once it became AHS headquarters.

When AHS desperately needed revenue to weather the effects of the pandemic, the property was listed for

sale. The threat of development of this open, green and public space spurred Save River Farm, a grassroots initiative which spread to the local community and then to the state and national level—all thanks to the Save River Farm Committee. It was an unprecedented campaign that brought together like-minded historical, architectural and conservation organizations, parks groups, civic associations, committed neighbors and political leaders. The committee worked with local governments to establish an Historic Overlay District on the property to control development in case the property was sold. The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust

stepped up to house the Save River Farm effort under its auspices, and the Northern Virginia Park Authority mobilized efforts to buy the property. Local volunteers played a key part in keeping the public informed of ongoing developments. After a year-long battle, AHS announced that River Farm will continue as the AHS headquarters and remain open to the public.

This outstanding collaboration resulted in the protection of this beautiful historic property.

—Marie Thomas, GCV Conservation Awards Chair, The Augusta Garden Club






GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA
Symposium
RICHMOND 2022

GROW YOUR KNOWLEDGE
SEPT. 20 & 21, 2022

Science Museum of Virginia
2500 West Broad Street

From the foraged haute
couture of Françoise Weeks
to the botanically inspired
images of micro photographer
Robert Llewellyn, don't miss
the GCV Symposium this year.

Photo courtesy of Donna Moulton

Registration and more information
at Symposium.GCVirginia.org



Artistic Design



Horticulture



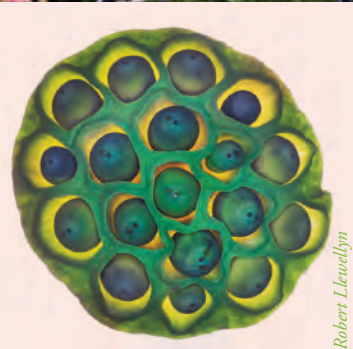
Photography



Photo by Ted Mshina, courtesy of Françoise Weeks



Misty Rales



Robert Llewellyn



Join the Garden Club of Virginia on September 20 and 21 for a flower-filled extravaganza packed with educational opportunities, incredible speakers and lots of fun. Grow your knowledge, and enjoy a wide range of free and ticketed programs, including a full-scale flower show integrating Horticulture, Artistic Design and Photography. All events will be open to the public and will take place over two days at the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond. Attend one or two programs, or come for the full experience.

All photos not otherwise credited courtesy of Penny Dart



Robert Llewellyn



Registration and more information at Symposium.GCVirginia.org

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA
Symposium
 RICHMOND 2022

GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA
Symposium
RICHMOND 2022

Experts in landscape and floral design, conservation, botanical arts and photography are included in the impressive schedule.

Keynote Speakers



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Robert Llewellyn

Award-winning pioneer of botanical microphotography



Courtesy of David LePage

Shaum Spencer-Hester

Granddaughter of Harlem Renaissance poet and Lynchburg gardener, Anne Spencer



Theresa Bear, courtesy of Françoise Weeks

Françoise Weeks

Botanical haute couture designer



Courtesy of the Sydney Morning Herald

Thomas Woltz

Visionary landscape architect



Theresa Bear, courtesy of Françoise Weeks



Robert Llewellyn



Photo courtesy of the Anne Spencer House & Garden Museum

Event Timeline

Enjoy a full-scale flower show in which horticulture, artistic design and photography are integrated, plus a botanical mixology event.

SPECIAL WORKSHOP Sunday, September 18

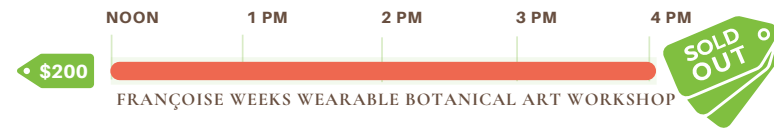


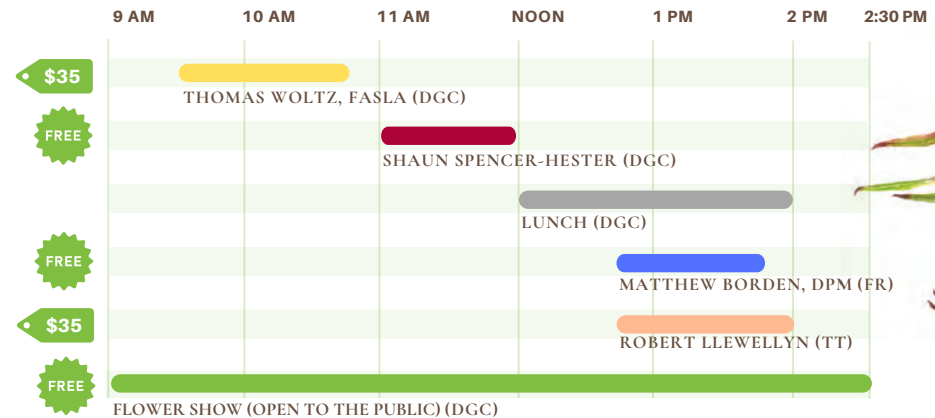
Photo courtesy of Penny Dart

DAY 1 Tuesday, September 20



★ FLOWER SHOW AWARD CEREMONY BEGINS AT 1:15 PM

DAY 2 Wednesday, September 21



Robert Llewellyn

For tickets and information visit:
Symposium.GCVirginia.org



THOMAS WOLTZ, NELSON BYRD WOLTZ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



Thomas Woltz, Symposium 2022 Keynote Speaker

New Visions for the Old Dominion: Social and Ecological Sustainability in the Designed Landscapes of NBWLA | Wednesday, September 21 from 9:30 am to 10:45 am | **Tickets \$35 at [Symposium.GCVirginia.org](https://www.symposium.gcvirginia.org)**

For more than 20 years, Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects has revealed lost, forgotten and erased narratives in a wide range of landscapes across the United States, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. From designing public parks and preserving cultural landscapes to revitalizing thousands of acres of agricultural land, NBW seeks to build a deeper understanding of and connection to place, history and the natural systems that sustain us all.

The firm, with offices in Charlottesville and New York, is led by visionary landscape architect and principal Thomas Woltz. Under Woltz's direction, NBW enlists a unique approach to each project, using ecological and cultural research as the foundation for designing and restoring landscapes.

Woltz, at the vanguard of global landscape architecture,

is the consummate scholar, with degrees in both architecture and landscape architecture from UVA. Ever the natty dresser, he looks more like a Madison Avenue advertising guy or a bookish editor from SoHo. But once he gets going on his favorite topic, there's no mistaking Woltz for anything but an impassioned landscape architect. What makes him stand apart is his almost supernatural ability to motivate, to create interest, to engage—and on topics that aren't necessarily at the top of TikTok's "best of" list. And in this world of micro sound bites, that's saying something.

Nelson Byrd Woltz has racked up scores of prestigious awards since its founding in 1985, many of them from the American Society of Landscape Architects, the American Association of Architects and the Trust for Public Land. Woltz joined the firm in 1987 and became its sole owner in 2013 when founders Warren Byrd and Susan Nelson retired.

A NBW signature isn't quick to emerge, but rather it's buried deep in the project's backstory. The firm's body of work integrates beauty and function with a deep understanding of cultural context and ecological processes that NBW is so famous for extracting. Woltz—and consequently his team—deeply care about the land. Their method of research-based design reveals and connects audiences to its underlying stories ... in Woltz's words, "to sift through stories from the land."

Through the process of uncovering those deep histories, finding clues about how a particular landscape—be it a park or an agricultural landscape or a university campus—can be authentic to that place is what informs NBW's process.

Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects has become one of the world's foremost landscape design studios through a variety of projects, including major urban parks, public gardens, agricultural sites and private landscapes. Some of NBW's more visible projects include



MACHICOMOCO STATE PARK

GLOUCESTER COUNTY, VIRGINIA



Photos courtesy of NBWLA and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation


Machicomoco State Park represents a vast and profoundly successful public-private partnership—with elected officials, government agencies and departments, corporations, nonprofits, Native Tribes, local citizens and other stakeholders. Part of its success is owed to Thomas Woltz and the guiding principles of meticulous research and project immersion he has instilled in his team at Nelson Byrd Woltz.

For those with an observant eye, experiencing Machicomoco is the ultimate treasure hunt, like a trail of anthropological breadcrumbs. A visit to this remarkable site is less like a history class and much more like a game of Clue.

At every turn, visitors are invited to learn and reflect on Indigenous peoples' relationship with the land. While it's easy to hike, boat, camp, or simply enjoy Machicomoco's views on the York River, visitors can also choose to uncover the cultural Easter eggs scattered throughout the property and absorb the rich and vital story of the area's first inhabitants.

continued on page 24

Hudson Yards Plaza in New York, Memorial Park in Houston, the Aga Khan Garden at the University of Alberta, and Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay Harbor. NBW's conservation master plan of Orongo Station, a 3,000-acre sheep farm on the eastern coast New Zealand's North Island, is a shining example of successful ecological restoration with deep cultural roots and widespread collaboration—from the restoration of degraded resources to the repair of ecological damage, reforestation and wetlands reclamation, along with New Zealand Parliament and Maori tribe collaboration. The result is a model of sustainable land management.

Recent NBW projects include several in Virginia. These landscapes restore biodiversity in degraded farmland at Seven Ponds Farm; reveal the evidence of landscapes of labor at Mount Fair Farm; interpret the histories and traditions of Indigenous Algonquian tribes in Machicomoco State Park; and preserve historic landscapes while honoring hidden narratives at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. 



continued from page 23

An oyster shell column is at the park's entrance, inspired by an ancient midden discovered on the property, which provides a subtle clue that the site of a human settlement lies ahead. A path of crushed oyster shells includes a timeline that begins in 16,000 BC and runs through thousands of years of the major events that shaped the lives of those living along the York River. An open air, re-interpreted traditional "longhouse," made

Led by Thomas Woltz, Nelson Byrd Woltz designed Machicomoco, one of Virginia's newest state parks and the first to celebrate and honor the history and legacy of the Native Tribes of Virginia. Opened just last year in Gloucester County, the park's 645 acres overlook the tidal creeks, marshes, and shorelines of the York River. Machicomoco State Park is one of several NBW projects in Virginia. *Photos courtesy of Nelson Byrd Woltz*



from black locust trees as they would have been centuries ago, includes panels that chronicle the life and culture of the Algonquin people.

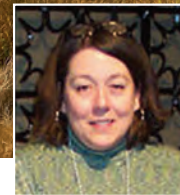
Subtle signage along trails, burned into waypoints and benches, incorporates icons indigenous to the area and those that are symbolically important to Native Tribes—the sun, moon, crabs and fish. Algonquian words face the water, and their English equivalents face the land, a quiet message that tells of Native peoples' reliance on waterways. A stone map also serves as a waypoint, etched with the names of the 50 Native Tribes within a 50-mile radius of the park. Machicomoco also includes water access, a campground, and yurts. The surrounding land provides diverse wildlife habitats—from open fields to woodlands and waterfront and marsh areas supporting deer, turkey and many species of songbirds and birds of prey.

The process of using ecological and cultural research that reveal these sorts of extraordinary details informs each of Nelson Byrd Woltz's projects. The Garden Club of Virginia is exceptionally pleased to feature Thomas Woltz as one of the Symposium's keynote speakers. 🌿



MACHICOMOCO: ONE VISITOR'S EXPERIENCE

By Allison Clock, The Hampton Roads Garden Club,
Horticulture Committee Chairman



My first visit to Machicomoco State Park was preceded by a visit to a Governor's Budget Briefing, just ahead of the Virginia General Assembly session last January. I was there on behalf of the Garden Club of Virginia. The briefing was being held in conjunction with the annual meeting of Virginiaforever, a diverse coalition of businesses, environmental organizations, and outdoor enthusiasts that includes the GCV. Virginiaforever advocates for increased funding for natural resource protection across the Commonwealth.

Attending the meeting was the perfect precursor to my first trip to this new state park in Gloucester. Conservation was on the agenda. The briefing room, just blocks from the Capitol in Richmond, was buzzing with news and notables, including the new director of Virginia State Parks, Dr. Melissa Baker. We spoke of GCV's commitment to state parks and agreed how exciting it was that Machicomoco was the newest addition at the time.

Driving to Machicomoco the next day, I marveled at the dedication and stamina of those who had just assembled. I appreciated being part of GCV's conservation mission, and soon my thoughts drifted to the GCV's upcoming Symposium. Thomas Woltz, the landscape architect

whose firm, Nelson Byrd Woltz, collaborated on the site plan for Machicomoco, was rumored to be the Symposium's conservation speaker. The park, I'd been told, is like no other, thanks to Woltz's vision.

At the time I was GCV's Conservation and Beautification Committee Chairman and met fellow committee member Nancy Holcomb at Machicomoco. It was a wonder, far exceeding my expectations. Unwinding after a busy week, the first thing that any visitor would appreciate is the ease of an uncluttered landscape. An expansive viewshed began to soften the tempo.

Prone to huddling over issues, I began look around us. During the pandemic, many of us had become readers of Doug Tallamy, who encourages us to increase our awareness of the health benefits of being in nature. While I noticed the quiet at other parks and the absence of urban noise, Machicomoco wasn't silent at all. The landscape there is designed to enhance the experience of its natural surroundings—the sound of the wind blowing through native grasses and birds singing in the open fields. An open-air interpretive center,



built to resemble a Native American longhouse, contains educational information about Virginia's earliest inhabitants.

The outdoor park experience is self-paced. Embedded in the walkway that leads to trails is a timeline. Approaching the trails, the sounds grow louder, the vegetation grows taller. The visitor senses that one has entered a time-traveler's maze—present in today's world but connected to the past.

A family might enjoy the comfortable picnic shelter and facilities. A hiker might contemplate the terrain. In short time, each would begin to notice the pilings on the pier by the creek adorned with images of native fish, birds and shellfish.

Where would one look for these symbols next—out to the water, up to the sky? Early inhabitants knew this land. We walked and listened just as they did. Refreshed. 🌿

PFAS & YOU

What's it all about?

In the 1930s, while noodling around in duPont's lab researching refrigerants, chemist Roy Plunkett quite accidentally discovered something brand new when he fused carbon and fluorine compounds. The end result, per- and polyfluoroalkyls, are so strong, they're nearly unbreakable. And with that supremely strong bond, they just might stick around forever. No wonder a nickname stuck: **forever chemicals**.

What are PFAS?

In today's parlance, Plunkett's discovery, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances—PFAS for short—are a group of chemicals that used to make coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water.

It's unlikely that a single household in the U.S. doesn't contain PFAS. They can be in everyday products like nonstick cookware, fire-fighting foam, stain resistant furniture and carpets, fast-food containers, pet food bags, wrinkle-free and water-repellant clothing (think raincoats), cosmetics, lubricants, paint, pizza boxes, popcorn bags and many others.

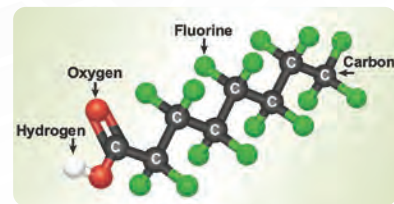
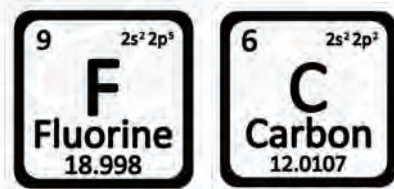
Today, PFAS numbers are growing: it's estimated that upwards of 9,000 known PFAS exist. Some early iterations have been known carcinogens and were subsequently banned. But researchers are constantly tweaking the formulas, inventing new substances and compounds to stay ahead of the curve.



What's the Controversy?

Another issue around PFAS concerns leaching: the compounds have leached into our air, soil and water for decades. People are thereby exposed by consuming PFAS-contaminated food or water, using products made with PFAS, or breathing air containing PFAS. A CDC study found these chemicals to be in the blood of 98 percent of Americans.

A second concern around PFAS is they don't degrade. These



forever chemicals remain in the environment for an unknown amount of time, which means that bioaccumulation is a real issue, since some PFAS may build up in the body when more PFAS are absorbed than eliminated. Since they're present in our food chains, PFAS accumulate in cell tissue. Ongoing studies are researching links between human exposure and health effects including altered metabolism, compromised fertility, reduced fetal growth, increased risk of obesity and some cancers, risks to immune



Photos courtesy of CR Magazine and Pixabay.



systems, impacts to cardiovascular health and vaccine efficacy.

PFAS and the GCV Conservation Forum

Since PFAS bio-accumulate, they're also found in wildlife and in plants. They're found in some fertilizers, too, and in food crops grown on farms and in the animals that eat the crops. And the cycle repeats itself.

Two of GCV's major tenets are protecting the environment and education: "Through coordinated efforts, our organization is committed to ensuring an environmentally sound Virginia ... and informing and inspiring others to do the same." As a part of its vision, GCV knows education is the first step.

Seize the opportunity at the GCV Conservation Forum to learn from an in-depth discussion from a panel of experts on how persistent PFAS have leached into our world affecting our water, land, air and homes through direct and coincidental exposure. Learn how testing private well water can inform you about exposure risks. Understand how choices in the products you consume to clean your home or shampoo your hair can reduce your exposure to PFAS.

Don't miss this year's Forum!

GCV CONSERVATION AWARD PRESENTATIONS

The GCV Conservation Forum will recognize the recipients of the **2022 GCV Conservation Educator Award** and the **Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award for Meritorious Achievement in Conservation**.

SPEAKERS & TOPICS FEATURED

The Conservation Forum will feature the following speakers, who will present on these topics:

- **Joe DiNardo, Toxicologist**
What and Where are PFAS? | Consumer Issues
- **Bill Mann, Ph.D., Va. Environmental PFAS Task Force**
How do PFAS Affect Your Health?
- **Erin Ling, VA Tech's VA Household Water Quality Program**
Well Water and Drinking Water
- **Robert C. Hale, Ph.D., Virginia Institute of Marine Science**
Biosolids, Back Yard Gardening and Farming Practices

Thursday, Nov. 3, 2022
9 a.m.-noon
Register at GCVirginia.org

FREE, LIVE, VIRTUAL WEBINAR (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)
Watch for registration on GCVirginia.org and in *Membership News*.



PFAS

THE FOREVER CHEMICALS

What does this have to do with us?

Thursday, November 3, 2022 | 9 a.m.-noon | Virtual Webinar | Register at GCVirginia.org



Pollinator Magnets

The following article is adapted from [Monrovia's Be Inspired gardening blog](#). For more gardening info and advice, visit [Monrovia.com](#)



One out of every three bites of your food depends on a pollinator, so rolling out the welcome mat and ringing the dinner bell for pollinators by planting varieties they'll love is just plain smart. Plus, watching butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees enjoying the garden as much as you do is one of the many joys of life in the garden.

Whether you're starting from scratch or playing catch up in an existing garden, read on for some do-it-now advice and recommendations for what to plant to attract specific pollinators, including top tips and favorite plants for attracting hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees, and then keeping them happy in your garden. As we head into fall, consider how you can make your landscape a pollinator magnet.

Monrovia is a name every gardener knows. For nearly 100 years, the company has pioneered the art and craft of growing plants. Founded in 1926 by Harry Rosedale in southern California, Monrovia has evolved into the nation's leading grower of premium container-grown ornamental and edible plants with nurseries located in various regions throughout the country, including Connecticut, California, Ohio, and Georgia.



Photos by Heike Frohnhoff, Myriams, Smarko, Sufu—all courtesy of Pixabay.



Top 10 Tips for Attracting Butterflies, Hummingbirds and Bees



1 Determine which pollinator-friendly plants are appropriate for where you live. Conditions vary widely throughout the state. What happens in the Shenandoah Valley is very different from the windswept shores of the state's coastal areas, so research what does well in your specific part of Virginia.

Look for bright, tubular flowers like honeysuckle, fuchsia, penstemon, agastache and foxglove to attract hummingbirds.



Provide shelter by letting your yard get a little wild. Allow a hedge to grow untrimmed, leave a section of lawn unmowed, pile up grass cutting in a sunny spot and create a nesting habitat by leaving some soil bare for ground-nesting bees.



2 You'll want to make an impact, so plant lots. And then plant some more. Make sure there are at least 3'x3' feet of each plant species. These can be planted together or in other areas of the garden.



Limit or avoid any use of chemicals (both synthetic and organic) in the garden, especially insecticides. These harsh substances make beneficial insect and pollinator populations weak or nonexistent.

Many pollinators are looking for clean sources of water from early spring until fall. Offer a bee watering station with a shallow bowl that's filled with rocks and water. This will allow bees and butterflies to easily access water. Just be sure to clean it often.



3 Consider the little pollen factories of composite flowers, those with clusters of many small flowers—called florets—each of which is a full flower. Think coreopsis, sunflowers, asters and yarrow. You're guaranteed to make the butterflies and bees happy.



As an alternative, instead of using chemical fertilizers, use plenty of compost and mulch to build healthy soil. Healthy soils create healthy plants and healthy plants support pollinators, birds and beneficial insects.



4 Choose single flowers—those with one ring of petals—over double flowers. Believe it or not, layered petals make it harder for pollinators to navigate. Single flowers are far easier for pollinators to reach the inner flower parts.



Plan your garden so that there is something blooming for as many months as you can manage. Many pollinators, especially bees, forage during the entire growing season, including through spring, summer and even into the colder months of fall and winter.



snips

NEWS FROM GCV CLUBS

GCV DISTRICT 1

Ashland Garden Club

ASHLAND

On a beautiful June morning, Ashland Garden Club members gathered in Mary Lou Brown's backyard for a Heritage Plant Sale to benefit the Garden Club of Virginia's Conservation Fund. Mary Lou and her husband, Bob, will be moving in September, and it was important to her that the plants she lovingly nurtured for more than 22 years go to the gardens of good friends who will continue to take care of them. And, AGC members were happy to honor Mary Lou and plant her well-tended garden treasures in their own yards. Mary Lou, a retired landscape designer, brought a wealth of advice and knowledge to our club.

AGC horticulture chairman, Miriam Green, as well as neighbor-friends Julie Erickson and Tim Brown dug and repotted over 100 plants for the sale. Plants in the sale included hostas, several types of ferns and unusual day lilies, cowslip primrose, hellebores, anemones, cardinal flower, hardy begonias, several types of iris, and more. The plant sale raised \$1,300 that Mary Lou requested be designated to the Conservation Fund to help GCV continue this important work.

It was a wonderful and successful joint effort. "I love how The Ashland Garden Club and this community work together," said Mary Lou. "It's so Ashland." Thank YOU, Mary Lou!

—Sharon Stiles



L-R: Bob Brown joins Ashland GC members Miriam Green, Mary Lou Brown and Julie Erickson for some R&R during the club's Heritage Plant Sale. The Browns graciously donated the plant sale proceeds to GCV's Conservation Fund. Photo courtesy of Sharon Stiles.



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90th Historic Garden Week

April 15-22, 2023

Tours Offered Statewide

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Whether it's the inspiring gardens, the architecture, the history or the Instagram-worthy flower arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members, and with 30 tours to choose from, Historic Garden Week in Virginia offers something for everyone. The only statewide house and garden tour in the nation, this annual springtime ritual includes access to private properties in communities large and small, many open for the first time to the public.

There are numerous ways to organize your Historic Garden Week trip. To plan by region or day of the week, please visit VAGardenWeek.org

We are excited to offer over 100 private properties as the focus for this spring's tours. We hope these categories are also helpful in your planning:



Foxglove
Dalmation
Rose

History Lovers

- Ashland-Hanover County
- Historic Berkeley, Shirley and Westover
- Front Royal
- Northern Neck

Waterfront

- Williamsburg
- Hampton Newport-News
- Virginia Beach

Art and Architecture

- Lynchburg
- Danville-Chatham
- Petersburg
- Richmond—Westhampton
- Martinsville

Shuttles

- Gloucester

Garden Lovers

- Eastern Shore
- Lexington
- Little Oak Spring
- Morven
- Albemarle
- Fredericksburg-King George County
- Richmond—Westhampton-Three Chopt

Walking Tours

- Old Town Alexandria
- Olde Towne Portsmouth
- Harrisonburg
- Richmond—Historic West Avenue

Views and Vistas

- Middle Peninsula
- Clarke County
- Staunton
- Warrenton



SAVE THE DATES

2022

- Sept 20-21 | Symposium 2022, Science Museum of Virginia, Richmond
- Oct 18-20 | GCV Board of Governors, Roanoke
- Nov 3 | Conservation Forum

2023

- March 29 | Daffodil Day, Norfolk Botanical Garden
- April 15-22 | Historic Garden Week
- May 16-18 | GCV Annual Meeting, Winchester
- June 7-8 | Horticulture Field Day, Williamsburg
- June 20-21 | Lily Show, Summer Fun, Orange



CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

Featuring the work of GCV artists on the cover of the *Journal* is a long-standing and much anticipated tradition. Our issues mirror the seasons—spring, summer, fall, winter—and cover art corresponds to those seasons accordingly. If you'd like your artwork to be considered, please email high-resolution jpg files to journal@gcvirginia.org.



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