



GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA  
**JOURNAL**

Spring 2023 | Volume LXVIII | No. 1

INSIDE

Summer Fun Lily Show | Best Garden Boots | HGW Guidebook Behind the Scenes



## 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](http://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](mailto:journal@gcvirginia.org).

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## CORRECTION

Rappahannock Valley Garden Club's president, Rennie McDaniel, graciously brought to our attention an error that appeared in the winter *Journal*. We incorrectly attributed the 2022 GCV Symposium's winning flower show entry, "Breaking News." As Rennie kindly informed us, **The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club's** creative flower team won the blue ribbon. We sincerely regret the error.



## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

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**TOP:** Flowering Dogwood, Photo courtesy of Bartlett Tree Experts. See page 11.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Bessie Bocoock Carter Conservation Award recipient's project, "Cultivating Conservationists," in action. Photo courtesy of Albemarle Garden Club. See page 30.

**ABOVE:** HGW *Guidebook's* Cover Home, Flowerdew Hundred. Photo courtesy Donna Moulton. See page 14.

**COVER ART:** *Wings Over Water* by Kelly Ellis, Roanoke Valley Garden Club

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

*Daffodil Day*, Virginia Beach, **March 29**  
*Bunny Mellon Style*, in Richmond, **April 12**  
*Historic Garden Week*, Statewide, **April 15-23**





ON THE COVER: ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

KELLY ELLIS

Kelly Ellis loves color.

"Color inspires me; it's all about the color. I am a color driven artist," Kelly explains as we chat about her dragonfly piece, one of many she's made in the last several years. Kelly works on a wood-cradled panel that's finished on all sides and creates collages using a medium called washi, a Japanese paper that can be painted before it's torn to design the dragonfly. Using paper pieces, the image floats across the board as if its flying. Kelly also uses mulberry paper in her collages.

Dragonflies have a special meaning to the Ellis family. In September 2019, just as Kelly's daughter's outdoor wedding was wrapping up, a dragonfly swarm appeared. Thousands of dragonflies took off in flight. "It was an event so unique and unplanned that it caught everyone's attention," says Kelly. When she heard that dragonflies symbolize good luck and change, she was inspired to make her daughter a dragonfly collage to remind the newly married couple of their special day.

The collages take time: layer upon layer of paper create the dragonfly image and background colors. Since 2019, Kelly has made over 30 dragonfly collages in her studio. "Every time I make one it reminds me of that dragonfly swarm."

Kelly is a member of Roanoke Valley Garden Club. She says she has loved art her entire life. Her favorite part of being a garden club member is flower arranging. "It is that creative, colorful thing that appeals to me," she says.

—Katherine Fulghum Knopf



ABOVE: *Wings Over Water* dragonfly collage, 10"x 10", by Kelly Ellis, Roanoke Valley Garden Club

  
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SPRING WORK IS GOING ON JOYFUL ENTHUSIASM. —John Muir



Another Nature is proving the famed groundhog wrong. Those of us who've been wishing for a blanketing snowfall across the landscape of Virginia may just have to wait until next year. From all of the signs around us, spring has arrived, and I think it's fair to say, it has arrived with joyful enthusiasm!

The Garden Club of Virginia sparkles in the springtime, and it all begins with Daffodil Day. *Here Comes the Sun*, hosted this year at Virginia Wesleyan University on March 29, promises to delight. Whether you grow daffodils in your own garden, participate as an exhibitor, or just want to gather friends and enjoy a spectacular exhibit of daffodils, floral designs and remarkable photography, you must join us in Virginia Beach!

And, our beloved springtime tradition, Historic Garden Week, is upon us. How exciting it is to look forward to the 90th Anniversary of America's only statewide (and largest) open house of private homes gardens and public landmarks! It is only through your hard work, commitment and talent that this grand, internationally renowned eight-day event is possible. I want to thank each of you for all that you do throughout the year and during Historic Garden Week. My hope is that you will find time to travel to one or more of the 29 tours across Virginia and enjoy the beauty of magnificent homes and gardens and the creativity and camaraderie of your fellow GCV members.

Be sure to watch for details in *Membership News* for our upcoming Horticulture Field Day, held on June 7-8 in Williamsburg, and the Lily Show, *Summer Fun*, hosted by Dolley Madison Garden Club on June 21.

Bask in the best of spring and join us for all that GCV offers throughout this joyful season!

I'll see you soon!

Debbie Lewis  
GCV President, 2022-2024



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## HAPPY SPRING!



We have an info-packed issue for you in this edition of the Spring *Journal*. In Fresh Produce, and thanks to Eva Clarke of The James River Garden Club, we report on Governor Glenn Youngkin's freshly inked proclamation that designates April 2023 as Virginia Native Plant Month. Don't miss reading more about this timely and important initiative, a major victory for native plants and their champions in the Commonwealth.

Our Snips section details club news, and it's full of ideas worth sharing with your membership. Plus, we know our features will keep you turning pages.

Karen Ellsworth from Historic Garden Week shares what it took to create the 2023 *Guidebook* cover and profiles the partners—McKinnon and Harris and Sneed's Nursery—who ensured a spectacular photo shoot at Flowerdew Hundred. HGW falls early this year—April 15-23—and from all reports, it's set to be a spectacular week. Are you ready?

And there's more. Mary Queitzsch, from Dolley Madison Garden Club, spreads the word about the upcoming lily show—*Summer Fun*—in Orange, blooming in June. This year's Bessie Bocock Conservation Award recipient, Albemarle Garden Club, makes a splash with its inspiring and collaborative community project, "Cultivating Conservationists." Read all about it thanks to Marie Thomas, Conservation Awards Chairman and member of The Augusta Garden Club. In "Pollinator Promoting Potential," Carol Hunter from Albemarle Garden Club and a member of the Conservation & Beautification Committee, profiles Jordan Martin, GCV's 2021 Conservation & Environmental fellow, and her important field work that encourages pollinator-friendly management practices in solar facilities. And, since spring can mean muck and mud, we showcase the best garden footwear—from Muck Boots to Xtratufs and everything in between—so your toes stay dry and warm as you tackle your spring garden chores.

Speaking of which, how is your garden growing? Mine is slow to wake up, but I'm looking forward to juzshing it up as the weather warms. I planted a bag of mixed daffodils in January—from Brent & Becky's awesome sale. My intentions were good, albeit a little late, and so far, so good. They're starting to poke their heads out from the leaf litter, and some are even blooming. Springtime, especially in Virginia, is always a joy and one of nature's many marvels.

Do you have something you'd like to see covered in the *Journal*? We always love hearing from club members, so email us at [journal@gcvirginia.org](mailto:journal@gcvirginia.org).

Enjoy this spring issue, and as always, happy gardening.

*Madeline Mayhood*

Madeline Mayhood, GCV Journal Editor  
[journal@gcvirginia.org](mailto:journal@gcvirginia.org)  
The James River Garden Club





# DAZZLING CREATIVITY

Join one of the nation's largest daffodil shows this March! See over 2,000 daffodil specimens, floral arrangements and eye-catching photography by GCV members.

This year's horticulture show will be judged by the American Daffodil Society and the artistic design and photography shows will be judged by GCV. Daffodils will be showcased in a wide variety of "sunny" floral arrangements that interpret "The Sun King" in the Early French Baroque style; "The Sun Also Rises" in the Phoenix style, and "Keep Your Sunny Side Up" in the Casual Contemporary style, and more. The Beatles' song "Here Comes the Sun" inspired the photography schedule.



  
**HERE  
COMES  
THE SUN**

  
GARDEN CLUB  
OF VIRGINIA

**DAFFODIL DAY**  
VIRGINIA BEACH

March 29, 2023 | 2 to 5 p.m. | Virginia Wesleyan University

FOR EVENT DETAILS, VISIT [GCVIRGINIA.ORG](http://GCVIRGINIA.ORG)

Photo courtesy of Dana Parker

FRESH PRODUCE & NEWS YOU CAN USE

## Welcome Sarah



### GCV hires its first Communications Director

Sarah Blackburn joined the GCV in January as its first communications director, a key position created to increase the organization's communications capacity, boost awareness and better serve its membership. Executive director Andrea Butler reports that Sarah was the top choice out of an impressive pool of candidates. Ann Heller, longtime communications coordinator and valued GCV team member, will remain in her

role, which will be expanded to support Sarah's overarching strategy and goals.

For the past 10 years, Sarah was the communications director for Virginia Commonwealth University's Center on Society and Health. Her broad experience encompasses branding, website design and re-design, strategic planning, media relations, print and digital publications and community and legislative engagement activities. She also oversaw social media and significantly increased the Center's online audiences. Sarah supervised writers, graphic designers and web developers and worked on projects from inception to execution. She met with key stakeholders

along the way to assess needs and inform strategies.

Sarah earned a B.A. in public relations and advertising and a B.B.A. in marketing from Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and an M.S. in sociology from VCU. Through her graduate work, she specialized in research methods, human behavior and policy, which she has applied throughout her career. She is currently pursuing a certification in nonprofit management and is also a beekeeper and an enthusiastic gardener and hiker.

When you're in the neighborhood, stop by the Kent-Valentine House to welcome Sarah. 🌱



## AN ILLUMINATING GIFT

### Lamps are shining bright at the KVH

Laurie Holladay, a member of Dolley Madison Garden Club, owner of the Laurie Holladay Shop in Gordonsville and a second-generation lamp restorer, recently made an illuminating gift to the GCV. She evaluated two dozen fine lamps that furnish the Kent-Valentine House and updated the wiring in several, added appropriate lamp shades to others, ensured that harps and switches were doing their jobs, and advised where the lamps should be placed based on their scale and design.

Holladay also donated an antique gilt bronze floor candelabra. Its origin is French, c.1910, with 10 lights on a single turned column. Additional gilded flower stems form a bouquet, all on a fancy ornate base. Little silk shantung lampshades adorn each light.

"Special gifts to the GCV come in many forms, and the time, expertise and fixtures that Laurie donated are priceless," notes Kelly Johnson, chairman of the Development Committee. 🌱

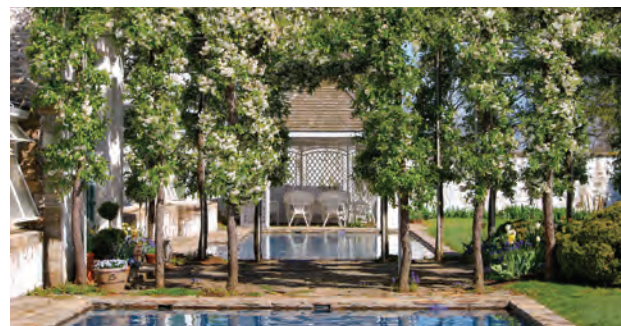
—by Andrea Butler







# BUNNY MELLON STYLE EVENT



Photos courtesy of Georgiana Wiant

Don't miss your chance to get an insider's perspective plus design tips from authors Thomas Lloyd and Bryan Huffman.

Getting excited about Historic Garden Week's 90th anniversary this April? Then you won't want to miss a special event co-hosted by the GCV and The Woman's Club. Bunny Mellon's grandson, Thomas Lloyd, and fellow author Bryan Huffman will share entertaining stories and design tips from their book *Bunny Mellon Style* as the perfect precursor to tours taking place this spring. Four properties with direct connections to Bunny Mellon (Oak Spring, Little Oak Spring, Apple Hill and Carter Hall) will be showcased on the Middleburg tour and the Clarke County tours.

Taking place at the Bolling Haxall House, just three blocks from the Kent-Valentine House, tickets include drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Purchase of the book *Bunny Mellon Style* is additional, and the authors will be available for book signing.

LOCATION: The Bolling Haxall House in Richmond

DATE: **Wednesday, April 12 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

COST: Members \$40 pp | Guests/Non-Members \$50 pp

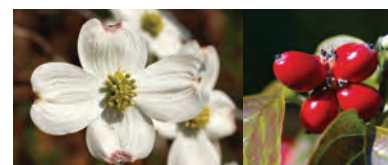
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## TREE TIP: BARTLETT TREE EXPERTS

### Flowering Dogwood—*Cornus florida*

The flowering dogwood has been one of America's most popular ornamental trees for centuries; Washington and Jefferson both planted it. Native to areas ranging from Massachusetts to Florida and Texas, this tree was used by native Americans for medicines and dyes. The wood is very hard and is used for golf club heads, mallets, tool handles and butcher blocks. The flowering dogwood is the species we think of when "dogwood" is mentioned, but two other species, kousa dogwood (*Cornus kousa*) and Cornelian-



cherry dogwood (*Cornus mas*) are also found in landscapes.

#### CULTURE

- Does best in moist, well-drained, acidic soil (pH 5.5-6.0) high in organic matter.
- Prefers morning sun and afternoon shade.
- Does not do well when exposed to intense heat.
- A good choice to plant near utility lines or next to buildings and patios.

#### CONCERNS

- Adequate soil moisture is important during dry periods because of its shallow roots.
- May be one of the first trees to succumb to drought injury if not mulched and watered.
- Susceptible to mower and trimmer damage.
- Competes poorly with turf.



- Anthracnose and powdery mildew are the plant's main health care concerns.
- Stressed trees become vulnerable to borers.

#### BARTLETT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Expose root flares and mulch a large area around the tree to help retain moisture and prevent mechanical damage from mowers and trimmers.
- Fertilize according to information from a soil sample.
- Prune waterspouts to reduce infection from dogwood anthracnose. 🌿

## GCV AWARD DEADLINES

Don't miss these important deadlines for GCV's awards. For details, nomination forms and additional info, visit [GCVirginia.org](https://GCVirginia.org)

#### JUNE 1, 2023

- *Conservation Educator Award*
- *Elizabeth Cabell Dugdale Award for Meritorious Achievement in Conservation*

#### NOVEMBER 1, 2023

- *Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award*

#### DECEMBER 1, 2023

- *Massie Medal for Distinguished Achievement*



## Governor Proclaims April 2023 as Virginia Native Plant Month



**NATIVE PLANTS JUST SCORED BIG IN VIRGINIA** with Governor Glenn Youngkin's recently signed proclamation designating April 2023 as **Virginia Native Plant Month**. The Governor reports that the Commonwealth is excited to partner with garden clubs and native plant champions that will help educate Virginians on the importance of planting native species. "Signing this proclamation will jumpstart a movement that will not only aid in the restoration and preservation of our delicate ecosystems and wildlife environments but will also strengthen our efforts in soil and water conservation," Youngkin's statement continued.

**National Native Plant Month** is a Garden Club of America initiative with a goal of having all 50 states declare a native plant month to spotlight the critical role they play in ensuring a healthy planet. The 12 Garden Club of America-affiliated clubs in Virginia, all GCV clubs too, fiercely advocated for the designation and continue to promote the profound connection between plants and people. 🌿

—Eva Clarke, *The James River Garden Club*





# Plant Superstars

## Soil Rescue Through Phytoremediation

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Garden Club of Virginia, hosted by Winchester-Clarke Garden Club May 16-18, will feature phytoremediation plants for the club horticulture exhibit.

“Good soil” is the quest for everyday gardeners, horticulture enthusiasts and farmers. The problem of contaminated soil is not just an occasional issue. Damage to soil can be long-term, leaving large areas of land that were once productive to lie fallow and become a wasteland.

Instead of using excavators and dump trucks to remove tons of toxic soil and fill a site with new, clean soil from elsewhere, on-site plants remove contaminants from the soil and store it within their tissues or bind them and/or break them down at their roots. In some cases, the plants themselves are then removed as toxic waste, while in other cases plants break down the chemicals and transform them altogether.

The process—**phytoremediation**—refers to the use of plants to reduce, degrade or remove toxic residue from soils, groundwater and surface water.

To accomplish phytoremediation, consider these “super plants”:

**Alpine pennycress** or penny grass (*Thlaspi caerulescens*) and **Indian mustard** (*Brassica juncea*) remove heavy metals. Indian grass is able to detoxify agrochemical residues such as pesticides and herbicides.

**The sunflower** is a tremendous super plant, reducing levels of organic compounds found in coal and tar. It absorbs heavy metals and has the ability to remove radioactive metals from contaminated areas and superficial ground water.

**Willow and poplar trees** are ideal because they grow quickly and have deep and extensive root systems. They can effectively remove, stabilize and/or destroy contaminants in soil and groundwater.

**Industrial hemp** has an eco-friendly superpower in removing heavy metals. It is a hyperaccumulator, growing to maturity in 8-12 weeks.

Exciting research is ongoing and shows viable solutions. 🌱

—Patsy Smith, Winchester-Clarke Garden Club



Indian mustard (*Brassica juncea*). Photo from Wikimedia Commons



Alpine pennycress (*Thlaspi caerulescens*). Photo courtesy of Liishto Pontti from Wikimedia Commons

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# Behind the scenes



## CREATING THE 2023 HGW GUIDEBOOK COVER

**PLUS, HOW TWO OF HGW'S INDISPENSABLE PARTNERS HELPED MAKE IT HAPPEN**

by Karen Ellsworth, Director of Historic Garden Week and Editor of the Guidebook

When the Historic Garden Week Committee selected Flowerdeew Hundred in Prince George County to grace the 2023 *Guidebook* cover, 15 months before the statewide event's 90th anniversary, they set in motion a flurry of activity. The goal, as always, was to create a stunning image to market what has come to be known as "America's Largest Open House." For the cover photo shoot, Sneed's Nursery, as well as McKinnon and Harris, maker of handcrafted garden furniture, played an important role in setting the stage for beautiful photos.

The current Flowerdeew Hundred was constructed in 1990-1999 and is sited farther from the James River than the original c. 1618 home. A large formal garden created in 1804 is long gone, though the remnants of the beds can still be seen. The current owners, Jeff and Ashley Oakley, have embarked on an extensive restoration of the grounds, the main residence and the outbuildings that make up the 1,400-acre property. When the Petersburg Garden Club opens Flowerdeew on Tuesday, April 18 for Historic Garden Week, it will be a showplace. But last year, when the HGW team photographed it to meet marketing deadlines, they were challenged: the property needed a few enhancements to conjure springtime in Virginia.

McKinnon and Harris offered to bring in a variety of outdoor furniture and accessories from its Richmond showroom, and Sneed's contributed decorative containers, seasonal potted shrubs, small trees, perennials and cut flowers for the two-day photo shoot. The proportions of the 14,000 sq. ft. home and the Colonial Revival-inspired architecture of Flowerdeew required props of the right scale and style. Both partners sent moving-sized trucks and hard-working crews to deliver and transport the furniture and plantings that were used to create the stunning vignettes that were photographed.

These Virginia-based businesses have deep and varied connections to the Garden Club of Virginia. We thought you'd enjoy learning more.







## ABOUT MCKINNON AND HARRIS

Founded in 1991 by brother and sister team Will Massie and Anne Harris Massie, the custom outdoor furniture makers named their business after their Virginia grandmothers, who were both gardeners and members of the Hillside Garden Club in Lynchburg. Fifty years later, their relationship to the GCV's signature fundraiser is still personal. I asked Will Massie (whose wife, Alice Massie, is a member of The James River Garden Club), to tell us a little about what makes McKinnon and Harris so special. Will is now the sole owner of the business that boasts a workshop in Richmond and showrooms in New York, Los Angeles and London.

**KE/HGW:** Why did you start the company, and what makes it unique in the market?

**WM:** After college, I followed the more conventional route and worked for a bank, but I did not enjoy it. At the same time, my sister and co-founder was finishing her master's in art history and realized she didn't want to stay in academia. On a ski trip I read *Do What You Love and the Money Will Follow*. That book really inspired me to leave my finance job. Anne and I had been in "business" together as teenagers – we raised and sold "Better Boy" tomatoes and "Silver Queen" corn one summer on our family farm in Lynchburg. The McKinnon and Harris business grew out of our passion for wanting to build beautiful things, inspired by nature...things that last and endure.

**KE/HGW:** I loved your website's journal post about what you are reading this past winter. Everything from a book about Anouska Hempel's gardens to one showcasing the homes and studios of fellow Virginian Cy Twombly. Are there any design heroes of yours that have really influenced your aesthetic and philosophy?

**WM:** I have so many design heroes! Sir John Soane, Russell Page, David Hicks, Jacques Wirtz and Anouska Hempel are just a few. Michael Taylor was an interior designer working in California in the late 20th century, and his design philosophy was a melding of styles, eras, color and form, but the essential aspect was always proportion and scale. Plants and natural light were always a must for the interior, and I admire his use of stone architectural antiquities to add rusticity and juxtapose the glamour of a space. That inspiration is evident in many of our McKinnon and Harris showrooms. They feature natural light, white walls, and the contrast of stone antiquities with our classical and timeless furniture.

**KE/HGW:** Your gardening tips were also very appreciated and inspiring. Planting spring bulbs in pots so you can move them into urns and around the garden is such a great idea. Planting tulips in black plastic pots so you can nestle them under hellebores—so the foliage hides the containers—is simply brilliant. While we were working on the photo shoot, your staff told me about your penchant for collecting antique capitals and using them in your garden as side tables, on the ground or stacked for decoration. What do you think constitutes a successful outdoor space?

**WM:** I like to approach furnishing the garden as an eclectic room, a layering of things collected over time. I choose only pieces that I really love and use treasured antiquities to create focal points for your eye to rest while enjoying time outside. A stately garden bench or antique statue instantly elevates any outdoor space into an intimate garden retreat. In my own home in Richmond, I have an Italian cartouche over a fountain from Barbara Israel Garden Antiques [in New York]. It is a 19th-century piece from the Olgiati family from Northern Italy, and it creates a beautiful centerpiece in our garden above the water feature.

## ABOUT SNEED'S NURSERY

The beginning of this Richmond company, also a family business, dates to a general store founded in 1933. In 1976 Bob Sneed and his younger brother Tommy decided to turn their interest in landscaping into a business. Today, Sneed's is comprised of a garden center, flower shop and an online store. The flower shop provides American grown, if not locally sourced, flowers for weddings and special events, as well as a small retail selection. The shop composts plant material, recycles and limits its use of oasis.

With education an important part of its mission, Sneed's offers garden-related classes in topics ranging from beekeeping to growing native plants. Its commitment to responsible and sustainable practices is sincere and obvious. In 2008 they eliminated synthetic fertilizers and pesticides from their store. Sneed's doesn't sell grass seed or lawn products either, since traditional grass lawns are huge consumers of water and fertilizer that run into the nearby James River and ultimately, to the Chesapeake Bay. I asked Jenny Rash, Operations Manager, to share some of her insight and tips with the Garden Club of Virginia.

**KE/HGW:** You offer a variety of classes including "We Plan, You Plant," which is an affordable way for a home gardener to begin a new gardening project with a design and a plant list before the first hole is even dug. What's the most common mistake people make when they are redoing their home landscape?

**JR:** Finding the right plant for the right spot seems to be the biggest challenge for most people. What will be the overall size of the plant at maturity? Should you really be planting a Nellie Stevens holly six feet off the side of your house? Can this plant handle the shade/sun/dryness/wetness of your site?

**KE/HGW:** You sell quite an impressive selection of native plants and flowers suitable for a pollinator garden. At the Garden Club of Virginia, we have been advocating more environmentally friendly garden options for years. What do you consider the easiest ways to make a garden "greener?"

**JR:** Lay off the spraying and the feeding. Most trees and shrubs do not need to be on a regular feeding schedule. We remind folks that here in Richmond we are a river city, and everything we do in our yards affects the river and ultimately, the bay. Try to feed plants only when they are showing signs of deficiency. And if you see holes in leaves, are you seeing pests? If you can't find the source, I wouldn't spray. The culprit probably has continued along its lifecycle. Walk your garden and look for pests daily. That way you will identify issues before they become a problem.

**KE/HGW:** And finally, we are completely charmed by your shop cat Cricket. What's her story?

**JR:** Cricket was living on a farm where the family was about to be evicted. She was the tamest of the cats, and she was rescued and brought to us in 2018. We were told she was spayed, but she had kittens only two months after she came to live at the nursery. All our customers wanted kittens, but we raffled them off to employees. For the past three years we have created a "Cricket" calendar and the proceeds go to Operation Catnip, a local feral catch, neuter, and release program.

Photos courtesy of Donna Moulton, Karen Ellsworth, McKinnon and Harris and Jenny Rash of Sneed's Nursery



The Massies grew up in Lynchburg, where Anne still lives, and brother and sister were photographed for the cover of a local magazine as children tending their parents' gardens, in preparation for Historic Garden Week 1973. Their grandmother, Annie Harris Robertson, was one of the founding members of Hillside Garden Club in Lynchburg. Continuing the family tradition, Anne Adams Robertson Massie, their mother, served as president of the Hillside Garden Club from 1975 to 1977.





SHOWING YOUR LILIES AT THE GCV LILY SHOW,

# Summer fun

By Mary Stroh Queitzsch, Dolley Madison Garden Club

Dr. Brian Bergman, a North American Lily Society (NALS) judge and judge instructor, is *Summer Fun's* keynote speaker.



GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

**LILY SHOW**

HOSTED BY DOLLEY MADISON GARDEN CLUB

**JUNE 20-21, 2023**

Dolley Madison Garden Club (DMGC) will host the 2023 GCV Lily Show, Summer Fun, on June 20-21, at the Orange Presbyterian Church in Orange.



Tribal Dance. Photo by DeLane Porter

Get your lilies ready to show in Artistic Design, Horticulture, and Photography.

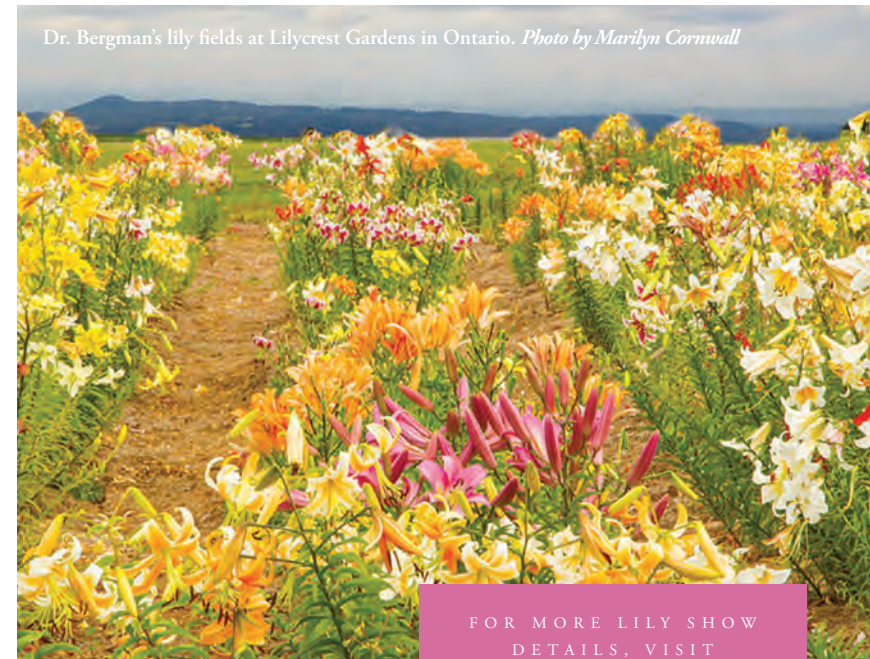
## DOLLEY MADISON GARDEN CLUB AND LILY SHOWING

Lilies and lily shows are deeply rooted in DMGC's flower traditions. In 1937, DMGC's first president and GCV's first Lily Committee chairman, Violet Niles Walker, organized the first GCV lily show. DMGC has been involved with lily shows ever since. This year's co-chairs, DeLane Porter and Jane Hammond, both award-winning lily growers, continue that long tradition.

## WORKSHOPS

This year's lily show will include a judging workshop, open to the public.

DeLane Porter is especially excited about a planned lily workshop, *Growing and Showing Lilies*, to be held on Tuesday, June 20, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Featuring Dr. Brian Bergman, a North American Lily Society (NALS) judge and judge instructor, this workshop will be open to GCV members and the general public. Dr. Bergman, from Toronto, has grown and hybridized lilies for decades. "An outstanding NALS leader and an acclaimed grower, Brian is known for his many lily accomplishments," says DeLane, "including winning numerous NALS National Show awards, such as the NALS Hornback Award (twice) for his advancement in hybridizing. He grows 10,000 lilies and has developed more than a thousand varieties, including *Peaches on Chocolate*, a stunning lily. His passion is infectious, and we are most fortunate to have this extraordinary opportunity." Topics will include his growing "to do" checklist, along with exhibiting pointers and insight into a judge's syllabus.



Dr. Bergman's lily fields at Lilycrest Gardens in Ontario. Photo by Marilyn Cornwall



*Peaches on Chocolate* is one of Dr. Brian Bergman's more outstanding lily hybrids.

## TIPS FOR GROWING YOUR LILIES

As her lilies start to emerge and grow, DeLane Porter follows tips she picked up from the late Virginia Queitzsch, DMGC's 33rd president and a lily expert. Her daughter, Mary Zocchi, is a NALS past president and current judge. One tip is to carefully scrape away an inch of soil and replace that soil with well-dried cow manure or a fluffy compost. As lilies grow, supporting them with a carefully placed lily stake is critical in order to grow a straight stem. The NALS publication, *Let's Grow Lilies!* is a reference used by almost every DMGC lily grower and a great resource to get ready for the lily show. 🌱

FOR MORE LILY SHOW DETAILS, VISIT [DMGCVIRGINIA.ORG](http://DMGCVIRGINIA.ORG)

## SCHEDULE DETAILS & SHOW SPECIFICS

Details available on the DMGC website, in GCV *Membership News*, on the GCV calendar, and through various announcements. Questions? Email us at: [dmgc.pr.comm@gmail.com](mailto:dmgc.pr.comm@gmail.com).

**Lily Workshop**  
by Dr. Brian Bergman  
"Growing & Showing"  
**TUESDAY, 10:00-11:00 A.M.**

**Workroom Open**  
**TUESDAY, NOON TO 6:00 P.M. & WEDNESDAY, 7:00-9:30 A.M.**

**Show Open**  
**WEDNESDAY, 1:30-4:30 P.M.**

**Awards Ceremony**  
**WEDNESDAY, 2:00 P.M.**



Big Smile. Photo by Jane Hammond





# these boots are made for...

## MUCKING AROUND IN THE GARDEN

April brings showers, so now is a good time to take stock of what you wear on your feet in the garden. It can be awfully chilly—and sometimes muddy—so you'll want options that will keep you warm while helping you get your spring gardening chores done. We searched the globe for gardening footwear, and considered important factors like comfort, waterproof, versatility, and wearability. Check out our finds. Some may be familiar, but some might even surprise you.



### HUNTER

A gardener's go-to, these classic Hunters are the original Wellies. Vegan-friendly, made of natural rubber, and fully waterproof, they're available as clogs or boots in short and tall heights. A dig pad on the boot sole helps when digging, and a wide tread sole with zig-zag construction enables quick and easy mud release. The thickened ankle patch provides extra protection when using spades. Boots come in happy colors like pink, yellow, orange and red. Clogs are lined in neoprene for breathability and comfort, while offering protection from the elements as well as supporting the foot.

**Tall Garden Boot, \$175, Clog, \$95.**  
HunterBoots.com

### NATIVES

Spotted on playgrounds everywhere, Natives are equally fitting for bigger feet and tough garden chores. Washable, waterproof and breathable, they also come in super-fun colors like Hollywood pink and purple passion, as well as the more subdued hues of black, white and neutral. The Vancouver-based company is committed to a low carbon footprint, and the Jefferson (*below*) already is one of the lowest-impact shoes on the market, clocking in at just 3.85kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per pair. Made with Bloom technology, a bio-based process that creates shoes made from repurposed algae, it transforms overly abundant algae growth into an environmentally sound product.

**Starting at \$50.**  
NativeShoes.com

### XTRATUF

L.L. Bean gum boots are apparently an East Coast phenomenon (who doesn't have a pair?), but head to the Pacific Northwest and they're all about Xtratuf, the boot made to withstand the brutal Alaskan waters and winters—from Kodiak to the Bering Sea, Denali to the Arctic Circle—not to mention Seattle's perpetual rain. And being that they're super flexible, completely waterproof and extremely durable, they do a fine job here in Virginia, too. While our conditions aren't quite so extreme, these pliable, sturdy boots keep toes toasty in cold months and dry in rainy weather. Plus, they really are extra tough—they just don't wear out.

**Xtratufs come in rubber (in some fun colors) and leather styles and start at \$115.**  
Xtratuf.com







### ILSE JACOBSEN

The Danish designer Ilse Jacobsen makes iconic rain boots in three convenient heights—tall, medium, and short—and each one doubles as the perfect gardening boot. Since opening her flagship store in Hornbaek, in Denmark's Northern Zealand, her boots have taken off, worn by global gardeners everywhere. Inspired by the rainy Nordic climate and life by the sea, they're durable and waterproof and come in a dizzying array of 11 colors—from Light Regatta to Ganache to Atmosphere. The lace-up style is a Jacobsen signature. (Her Tulip flats are a garden club essential, but they're not ideal for getting wet.) Boots are available worldwide, (aka Amazon) and also through the company's website.

**\$224**  
[ilsejacobsen.com](http://ilsejacobsen.com)



### SLOGGERS

Doris Day, America's sweetheart, made the first Slogger fly off shelves when she donned a pair of Coffey-Hoyt's Drizzle Boots for the big screen in 1951's *Storm Warning*. Momentum kept up as new designs debuted like the Drizzle Boots with fur trim, which became all the rage in the '60s. Decades later, the California-based company made another splash, reinventing itself as Sloggers, known for creating the perfect shoe for slogging about outside. Designed for all-day comfort, Sloggers come in boots and clogs in a staggering assortment of fun and funky patterns and colors—from camo to pawprints, flowers, cows, and hummingbirds. Waterproof and easy to slip on and off, they're designed to wash off, so they go from mud to dirt to puddles with ease—just hose them off when you're done.

**Prices start at \$32.**  
[Sloggers.com](http://Sloggers.com)

### MUCK BOOTS

Martha Stewart loves Muck Boots, and let's be clear—this is a woman who knows her footwear. She's big on wearing them outdoors for all manner of gardening chores at Cantitoe Corner, her farm in Bedford, New York. Hale Boots are one of many Muck Boot styles and come in solid black or red/black checkers or blue/black checkers. They're sporty and go from summer to winter with ease. A breathable mesh lining wicks moisture away on warmer days, allowing your feet to breathe. Neoprene insulation provides comfort, warmth and waterproofing whether you're walking the dog, running about town or in the garden. A similar style, Muck's Original Tall Fleece Boot, is in black only and is for serious work and warmth.

**Hales are \$145**  
**Original Tall Fleece Boots \$175**  
[MuckBootCompany.com](http://MuckBootCompany.com)



### PODDY AND BLACK

Sisters Justine and Vanessa, armed with seriously creative DNA and the occasional G&T, set about to design the world's most practical, comfortable and expressive gardening footwear. And they hit their mark with Paddy and Black—gardening shoes with a dash of style and touch of whimsy. "We believe that all gardeners have a creative flair, often matched in their homes and personal style," Vanessa says, who maintains that what gardeners wear on their feet should look good too. "We like to think we have achieved this and have made it possible for everyone to express themselves in their own unique way," she adds. "The Paddy allows you to find your own style. Because no matter which back door clog or shoe you choose, how big or small your garden is or what task is at hand, we know your feet will feel good and look fabulous." Poddys are designed in the U.K. and can be shipped to the U.S.

**Prices start at £75.**  
[PaddyandBlack.com](http://PaddyandBlack.com)



"We believe that all gardeners have a creative flair, often matched in their homes and personal style," Vanessa says, who maintains that what gardeners wear on their feet should look good too. "We like to think we have achieved this and have made it possible for everyone to express themselves in their own unique way," she adds. "The Paddy allows you to find your own style. Because no matter which back door clog or shoe you choose, how big or small your garden is or what task is at hand, we know your feet will feel good and look fabulous." Poddys are designed in the U.K. and can be shipped to the U.S.



Paddy and Black wool felt insoles wick away moisture in the summer and keep feet warm in cooler months. They make great gifts for gardeners and come in riotous colors like poppy red, marmalade and grass green. **£11 per pair.**



## wellingtons 101

The Wellington boot was originally a type of leather boot adapted from Hessian boots, a style of military riding boot. They were worn and popularized by Arthur Wellesley, First Duke of Wellington. The "Wellington" boot became a staple of practical footwear for the British aristocracy in the early 19th century.

The name was subsequently given to waterproof boots made of rubber. The North British Rubber Company—now Hunter Boot, Ltd.—was asked by the War Office to construct a boot that could withstand Europe's harsh conditions, and production of the Wellington boot was dramatically boosted during World War I, with its infamously muddy trenches and flooded fields.

Hunter continued manufacturing Wellies during World War II. Now "Wellies" is a more ubiquitous term, referring to boots commonly worn in the garden and other outdoor activities.







L-R: Sharon Stiles, Miriam Green, Ann Martin and Jerry McKinney plant daffodil bulbs at the Hanover Arts & Activities Center to celebrate the Ashland Garden Club's Centennial.

## The James River Garden Club

RICHMOND

From tips on conditioning to no-fail mechanics, JRGC member Agnes Richard, joined by her able assistant Madeline Mayhood, presented "Secrets and Shortcuts to Creative Floral Design" to members of The Garden Club of the Northern Neck at the club's November meeting, held in the DuPont Library at Stratford Hall.

(Below) L-R: GCNN president Ann Thornton, Agnes Richard, Madeline Mayhood, and GCNN program chair Vicki Levering. Photo by Shelly Akers



L-R: AGC members Stacey Rowe and Laura Liebert help set up the silent auction and handmade table arrangements for Fall Fantasy, the club's event that raises funds for special projects.

Photo courtesy of The Ashland Garden Club

neighborhood parks will burst with new color. Founding member and first president Miss Mary Beirne was a nationally renowned daffodil expert and hybridizer, and club members continue to celebrate

her legacy and love of daffodils by planting thousands throughout Ashland over our 100 years, in addition to trees and shrubs. We continued this tradition in 2022.

—Sharon Stiles



GCV DISTRICT 1

## The Ashland Garden Club

ASHLAND

Members of The Ashland Garden Club celebrated the club's centennial anniversary on October 12th with our fundraising event, *Fall Fantasy*, at The Hanover Tavern. Our speaker was Garden Club of Virginia Honorary member, Nancy Ross Hugo, who gave an excellent program on "The Extraordinary Osage Orange." We raised funds with a silent auction, the sale of handmade papier mâché centerpieces using repurposed materials and a raffle for a garden wagon filled with tools, bulbs and other gardening supplies. The proceeds raised will help us provide scholarships and support other special projects proposed by members to help in our community.

As a gift to Ashland, we planted 525 daffodil bulbs around town in November. Come spring, public spaces such as the police station, train station, library, schools and



(Left) In garden club circles, Meredith Lauter, a member of The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton, is a legendary floral designer. She's pictured here with Augusta GC member Amy Feinman at the club's November meeting. Photo courtesy of Augusta Garden Club



GCV DISTRICT 2

AGC's Fall program, "Stroll, Snap & Sip," gave Augusta GC members an opportunity to admire and photograph sites around Staunton, brush up on their photography skills and enjoy each other and a little wine. Photos by Susan Lendermon

## The Augusta Garden Club

STAUNTON

The Augusta Garden Club was back in full swing last fall with activities and interesting programs. Taking advantage of beautiful fall weather and our scenic downtown, the Photography Committee organized "Stroll, Snap & Sip," an opportunity for members to admire and photograph interesting architectural features and cap off the evening with a glass of wine at a local shop. Interest in photography has blossomed with great participation in October and November club

Photography Shows. At the club's November meeting, members were inspired for the holidays and Historic Garden Week thanks to GCV floral arranger and artistic design judge Meredith Lauter, a member of The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton, who presented a floral design program, "Just Do It." To spread Christmas cheer, the club also hosted an amaryllis planting workshop and delivered holiday arrangements in December to shut-ins, nursing homes, and first responders.

—Deneen Brannock

(Right) GCNN members busy decorating wreaths and swags in Stratford Hall's greenhouse. Everyone braved a cold and dreary November day. Photo by Vicki Levering

(Below) Stratford Hall. Photo by Calder Loth, courtesy of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources



Greens with pods, berries and lemons. Photo by Vicki Levering

GCV DISTRICT 3

## The Garden Club of the Northern Neck

NORTHERN NECK

Members of The GCNN arrived at Stratford Hall on a chilly November morning for the club's annual *Greening of the Hall*. Rain didn't dampen their enthusiasm as 40 women entered the greenhouse and immediately went to work.

Judy Hynson, Stratford's Director of library and research collections, assisted by Lindeve Hostved, provided fresh-cut greenery and prepped the worktables with berries, fruit and red bows. In just a few hours, over 50 wreaths and swags crafted with magnolia, holly, boxwood, fir and cedar were ready to adorn this National Historic Landmark.

Situated on nearly 2,000 acres on the Potomac River, Stratford Hall is a majestic property in every season. During the holidays, the estate is particularly beautiful with greenery and festive decorations reminiscent of 18th-century customs to welcome visitors to the open house Christmastide Celebration.

The GCNN first created yuletide wreaths and swags for Stratford Hall in 1993. Nearly 30 years have passed, and the merry-making continues. Our club is honored to be a part of this wonderful tradition.

—Ann Thornton, GCNN President, and Vicki Levering, Vice-President







(Above) L-R: Hardworking Hunting Creek GC members pause for a photo op after tending to the plant beds at the Carpenter's Shelter in Alexandria. Photo by Joyce Stevens

GCV DISTRICT 5

### The Hunting Creek Garden Club

ALEXANDRIA

The HCGC has supported the Carpenter's Shelter in Alexandria for several years. The Shelter provides safe, temporary housing and comprehensive community support for more than 600 children and adults each year.

Our members have created bouquets of fresh red and white flowers to brighten spaces during the holidays. We have weeded and pruned planting beds located in the Shelter's interior courtyard. In September, our Club granted money to landscape a 60 ft.-long planter in the courtyard. Our newly formed



Planting beds in the inner courtyard at the Carpenter's Shelter in Alexandria, planted by Hunting Creek GC members. Photo by Moe Bates

Community Service Committee led the way in planting climbing hydrangea, spirea, honeysuckle, salvia, windflowers, Japanese painted fern, Fatsia 'Spider's Web', Solomon's seal, grasses, daffodil bulbs and more! The Club plans to continue its support of this important community organization.

—Joyce Stevens

### Leesburg Garden Club

LEESBURG

On a brisk October morning, several Leesburg Garden Club members met to visit restoration projects in the area funded by proceeds from Historic Garden Week. Our itinerary included a tour of the historic Burwell-Morgan Mill, an 18th century commercial complex in Millwood, and the State Arboretum at Blandy. Our goal was also to witness how our decades of work ensures successful HGWs.



Millwood's Burwell-Morgan Mill, a GCV restoration site. Photo by Calder Loth, courtesy of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources

In 1972, GCV provided funding for Burwell-Morgan's park-like design using the natural features and for landscaping of the grounds surrounding the 18th-century mill, an historic site open to the public. In addition, the mill's stone terrace and benches were also funded by the GCV in 2017, which alleviated the issue of stormwater drainage into the Mill. After our tour, we enjoyed lunch on the grounds.

Our next stop was the State Arboretum of Virginia, at Blandy Experimental Farm, a 712-acre UVA research facility established in the 1930s. We explored its grounds with its more than 6,000 trees and woody shrubs and one-third of the pine species of the world. We timed our visit perfectly: Leaves on the arboretum's 300

ginkgos—the largest ginkgo grove planted for experimentation outside of China—were just beginning to turn their brilliant fall yellow. (See photo at right)

Our visit also included a history of the founding and planting of the arboretum, including several Virginia Champion Trees, of which there are 25 on the property. Another feature, Dogwood Lane, is bordered by dry stack stone walls; its restoration was funded by GCV in 2004. We were thrilled to see first-hand the tangible result that our collective hard work during Historic Garden Week reaped.

Sadly, we also saw for ourselves a spotted lanternfly infestation, numbering in the thousands, on a border of red maple trees. Blandy is organic and pesticide free, and with no natural predators, we witnessed just how invasive they can be. Quite a wake-up call on which to end our tour.

—Judy Gerow and Teresa Ferland



Ginkgos at the State Arboretum  
Photo by Beth Cleveland



Members of the GC of Norfolk with volunteers from the U.S. Navy and Norfolk Master Gardeners at the Olmsted Tribute Garden. Photo by Allison Lavigne

GCV DISTRICT 6

### The Garden Club of Norfolk

NORFOLK

What started as a quest to honor the 200th birthday of Frederick Law Olmsted has turned into one of the biggest projects in The Garden Club of Norfolk's history. We call it "The Olmsted Initiative," and it is chaired by two talented members, Liz Paiste and Mary Beth Horton. Because only three percent of the City of Norfolk's land is green space—far below the state and national averages—we wanted to make the most of our location for this Initiative along the Elizabeth River Trail in Norfolk.

Dr. Laurie Fox, Research Associate with the Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center, and two volunteers, Jeff Paiste and Sean Hendrix, lay out perennials to be planted for the GC of Norfolk's Olmsted Initiative. Photo by Allison Lavigne



Dramatic changes happened this fall. With a variety of local partners and community volunteers, we created the Olmsted Tribute Garden, transforming what once was a barren swale collecting stormwater into an exciting showcase of native trees and plants. This now vibrant ecological corridor, nearly the length of a football field, was once where only barren soil once existed. The location of this parcel has exponentially increased wildlife support of this urban space, while beautifying the trail for visitors to enjoy throughout the seasons.

To date we have planted 17 native trees, 124 native shrubs and 1,850 native perennials. Phase 2 will finish up in the spring with another planting, after which we will move to Phase 3, which will include the transformation of the nearby retention pond. We are also raising funds for educational signage for all the native plants and a hydration station for trail users and their furry friends. Read more about our project at [TheGardenClubOfNorfolk.org/Olmsted](http://TheGardenClubOfNorfolk.org/Olmsted).

— Colleen Hamlin and Vanessa Sigmon



GCV'S C&E FELLOW ENCOURAGES  
 POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY MANAGEMENT  
 PRACTICES IN SOLAR FACILITIES

# pollinator promoting potential

By Carol Hunter, Albemarle Garden Club, Co-Chair, Conservation and Environmental Studies Fellowship Subcommittee, Conservation and Beautification Committee

All photos courtesy of Jordan Martin and Dr. Doug DeBerry.  
 ABOVE: Jordan recording data in a field of Black-eyed Susans.



Many of us in the Garden Club of Virginia have enjoyed following the work of Jordan Martin, the GCV's 2021 Conservation and Environmental Fellow. Jordan earned her master's degree in biology from William & Mary last spring. She wrote and successfully defended her master's thesis and submitted her final report on "Investigating the Pollinator Promoting Potential of Virginia Solar Facilities." Read on to find out about Jordan's fascinating work and some of her findings and conclusions.



Jordan's master's graduation (Spring 2022).

As the solar industry grows throughout the state and land is transformed into solar panel facilities, the Commonwealth of Virginia has been tracking its growth. Understanding the opportunity this can bring to promote biodiversity and support pollinators, Jordan explored the ecological and economic effects of a pollinator-friendly solar facility compared to a turfgrass solar facility. She hypothesized that a pollinator-friendly solar facility would be functionally equivalent in pollinator support and overall insect diversity to a pollinator-friendly non-solar field and that both sites would have far greater pollinator support and insect diversity than a turfgrass solar field.



Butterfly weed, one of the most important pollinators, growing in a solar field.

To test her hypothesis, Jordan conducted insect and

vegetation sampling, and the resulting data were analyzed for differences in vegetative and insect diversity and pollinator abundance at three sites. The three sites included a pollinator-friendly solar facility and a turfgrass solar facility, both owned and operated by Sun Tribe Solar, and a reference non-solar pollinator-friendly field. Sun Tribe is a fast-growing clean energy company headquartered in Charlottesville. The diversity analysis revealed that the pollinator-friendly solar site was overall functionally equivalent to the non-solar pollinator-friendly site and the turfgrass solar site had low

insect and vegetative diversity, but high insect abundance.

As Jordan concluded, "Overall, this study supports the idea that pollinator-friendly landscapes could be more economically viable, as pertaining to energy output, and more ecologically beneficial compared to turf. More research is necessary to further investigate and test the patterns seen at only these two solar sites, but these results are encouraging for the future widespread implementation of pollinator-friendly management practices in solar facilities across the Mid-Atlantic."

Jordan's project also included an educational outreach component at Cople Elementary School, adjacent to one of the two sites of the study owned and operated by Sun Tribe Solar. She spent two days teaching the fourth graders that having a variety of native flowering plants supports pollinators, which in turn supports our food supply as well as the natural ecosystem. Not only did Jordan's outreach at Cople Elementary explore the local school's pollinator-friendly solar facility possibilities, but it will have a far-reaching impact. In working with Sun Tribe Solar to create the pollination and insect diversity curriculum, Jordan also ensured that the curriculum will be taught at all of Sun Tribe Solar's future pollinator-friendly solar sites in school systems. 🌱

"Overall, this study supports the idea that pollinator-friendly landscapes could be more economically viable, as pertaining to energy output, and more ecologically beneficial compared to turf." — Jordan Martin



One of Sun Tribe's solar fields.



THE 2023 BESSIE BOCOCK CARTER CONSERVATION AWARD GOES TO ALBEMARLE GARDEN CLUB WHOSE PROJECT ENCOURAGES CULTIVATION OF POLLINATORS, NATIVES, AND NATURE LITERACY

# conservation award winner

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

Congratulations to Albemarle Garden Club for submitting a project proposal for The Bessie Boccock Carter Conservation Award, *Cultivating Conservationists: Promoting Native Species, Pollinators and Nature Literacy at the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont.*

BGP is a busy spot for young learners and high school students. Picture books on nature themes have been enlarged and placed throughout the garden space. Librarians, volunteers and parents use them to engage students in nature experiences. BBBCA will help expand the program to include pollinators such as mason bees.



“Our project continues to advance the collaborative spirit between Albemarle Garden Club and the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont,” says AGC president Nancy Inman, who adds, “Our two organizations are intrinsically tied. We have a mutual commitment to environmental conservation, protection of native species, public education, and cultivation of generations of budding conservationists who will be inspired to take action in their communities.”

Demonstrating community collaboration, six local organizations, The Botanical Garden of the Piedmont (BGP), the Charlottesville-Albemarle Technical Education Center (CATEC), the Jefferson Madison Regional Library, Virginia Master Naturalists, the Piedmont Bird Club, and Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards are partners with Albemarle GC in this approved project.

## THE PROJECT HAS THREE FOCUS AREAS:

**1** To promote pollination through working with CATEC and local high school students as they design, build and install mason bee nests in areas adjacent to BGP’s wildflower meadow that attract pollinators and birds to the garden.

**2** To enable native species—and the fauna they support—to thrive as invasive species in new areas of the garden are removed. Improvement has already been seen in the water quality of a stream traversing the site and the health of two rare butternut trees as a result of these efforts.

**3** To educate the public about the importance of supporting a healthy ecosystem. New trails and gathering areas will be created—outdoor classrooms—to host nature literacy and other educational programs focusing on pollinators, natural resource conservation, and protecting our environment. Additional books will be purchased, adding to the collection for the nature literacy program, “Explore to Read,” specifically addressing



Mason bee information cards will be available at mason bee boxes, constructed by CATEC students. BBBCA will help pay for the cards and materials for the boxes.

issues such as conservation, invasive plants and their impact on habitat and pollinators.

The project will involve collaborating with local schools to augment their classroom curriculum with real-life student experiences by developing programming focused on pollinators and host plants. Students will be invited to the garden for educational programs/workshops about native plants and their pollinators, and why pollinators matter to people. Informational mason bee cards will be available in a self-serve box and in the garden’s kiosk and QR codes will link to information on the BGP website. Local beekeeper organizations and experts will give bee talks in the garden to teach students about bee house maintenance in the fall when it’s time to harvest and store the cocoons and the following spring when they are reinstalled in their houses.

In addition, the BBCC Award will enable the design, fabrication and installation of educational signs about the native plants growing in the garden on both sides of the stream. A children’s nature literacy program, “Explore to Read,” will be hosted outdoors in partnership with Jefferson Madison Regional Library (JMRL) from April-October with a focus on pollinators and conservation. One of the featured books will be *One Earth*, which promotes conservation and encourages children to take better care of our planet.

“It’s so fitting that Albemarle Garden Club is the recipient of this GCV award,” notes Conservation Awards chairman Marie Thomas (Augusta GC), “as Bessie is a former member.” On behalf of the Garden Club of Virginia, congratulations to Albemarle Garden Club! 🌱



## Albemarle GC’s proposal’s detailed allocations for the Bessie Boccock Carter Conservation Award:

- Educational signs - 8 with QR code to BGP website
- Materials - bee boxes
- Printing - 1000 Bee Cards for participants and information for kiosk and available in self-serve boxes
- Mason bee cocoons & attractant (to launch colony)
- Supplies to eradicate invasive plants
- Books and printed materials for “Explore to Read” program



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- Middleburg
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GCV CALENDAR

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK THE GCV CALENDAR ONLINE FOR CURRENT INFORMATION AND UPDATES.



**SAVE THE DATES**

- March 29** | Daffodil Day, Virginia Wesleyan University, Virginia Beach
- April 12** | Bunny Mellon Style, The Womans Club, Richmond
- April 15-22** | Historic Garden Week
- May 16-18** | GCV Annual Meeting, Winchester
- June 1** | GCV Awards Deadlines, Dugdale Award for Meritorious Achievement in Conservation, Conservation Educator Award
- June 7-8** | Horticulture Field Day, Williamsburg
- June 13** | GCV Member Club President's Day, KVH/Richmond
- June 14** | HGW Boot Camp
- June 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](mailto:journal@gcvirginia.org).

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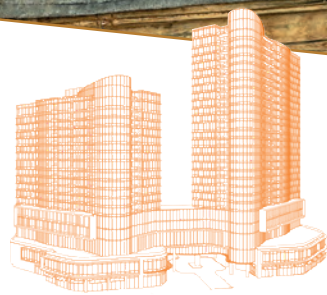
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