

From: Tuckahoe Garden Club Newsletter Editor tuckahoegardenclub@gmail.com 
Subject: Please read and enjoy this update from "The Tuckahoe News"
Date: September 1, 2019 at 9:28 AM
To: jbmountcastle@mac.com



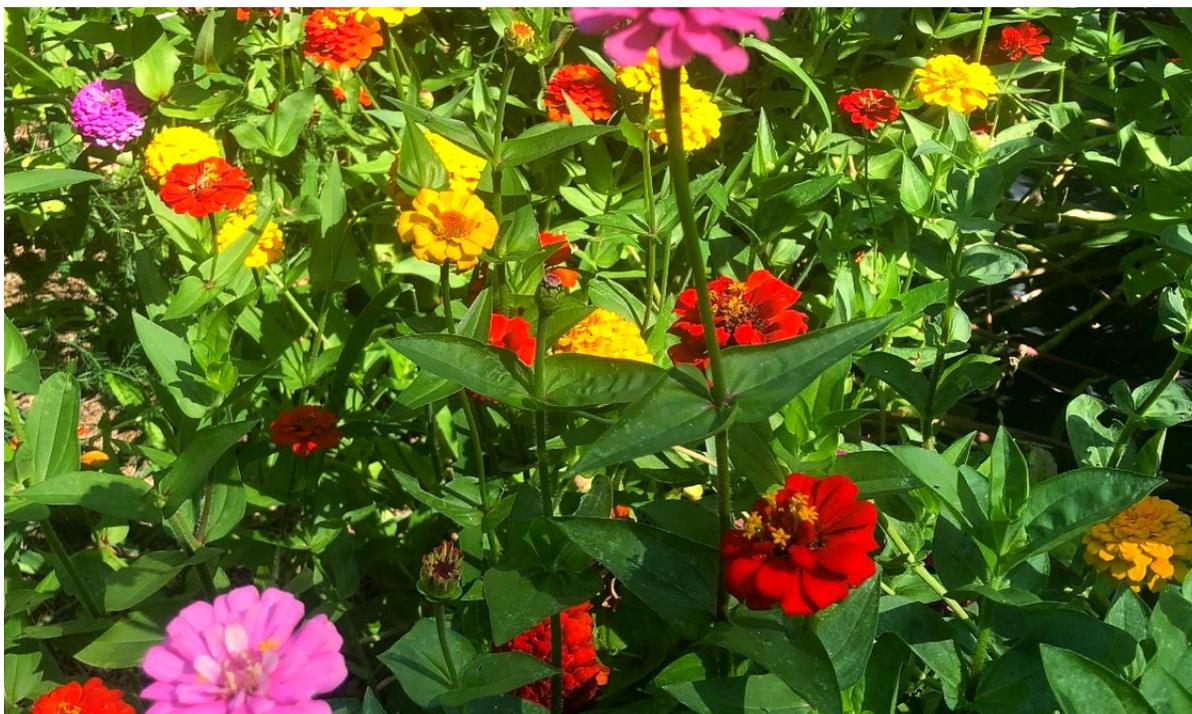
THE TUCKAHOE NEWS



September 2019

"Read, Enjoy, and Stay Informed"





Zinnias soak up the summer sunshine.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“Sigh... there goes another summer, Snoopy!”, says Charlie Brown. And then there is this anonymous quote, “Summer should get a speeding ticket.” Isn’t that the truth?

Well yes, it is indeed bittersweet to say good bye to summer, but there is so much to look forward to on the horizon! Check out some of these fun garden club events we have this year:

We have a new website! How exciting is that! Lisa Burlee and Jill Mountcastle will walk us through the website at our September meeting. It is fantastic! Can’t wait for the unveiling!

We have exciting GCV Centennial events to look forward to all year long-much to celebrate. We have great speakers: a local historian; our very own Abbie Wharton, Sue Thompson and Freddie Gray; flower designers; Shalom Farms; and Lena Scott procured the best... Margot Shaw, the editor-in-chief of Flower Magazine. You will not want to miss any of these great programs.

And we have a cocktail party this year. This year it is at the lovely Reynolds Gallery. Be sure to mark that on your calendar!

We have Partners for Plants workdays scheduled in advance throughout the year. Let’s have a record number of club members for these workdays. They are fun and rewarding.

Photography exhibits have been added to our membership meetings. Stretch your creativity and view our

Photography exhibits have been added to our monthly meetings to enjoy your creativity and view the world of nature and monuments through your camera or your camera phone. You'll be amazed at what you can capture with your camera phone!

And lastly...let's all participate in our great exhibits. Honestly, participation was down last year and it is NOT because they were not interesting and fun...au contraire...let's make this a real competition for those coveted bowls at the end of the year. Let's have 100% participation in exhibits by the end of the year.

This is just a snippet of the fun we will have. Be sure to add all of these events into your calendars. Your directory is now online with these dates. Your hardback directory will be distributed at the September meeting. And I've already sent you the Quick Reference Calendar. With all these handy tools at your fingertips, you can't miss a single moment of Tuckahoe Garden Club, 2019-20. Be there!

Betty

Betty Jenkins

President, The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton





TGC NEWS & INFORMATION

Wednesday, September 18, 10:00 am

Hostesses: *Melinda Smith, Beth Norfleet, Sara Cann
Place: Kent-Valentine House, 12 East Franklin Street, 23219
Time: 9:30 am Refreshments & 10:00 am Speaker
Program: Welcome back! All you need to know about our new TGC website from Lisa Burlee and Jill Mountcastle. Plus hear the news from the summer, plus plans for the future.

Artistic Exhibits:

Class I: Make an arrangement featuring dahlias and/or chrysanthemums. Other floral varieties and greens may be incorporated. Container of your choice.

Class II: Make an arrangement using the "last roses of summer," roses only, please, and greens if you wish. Container to be clear glass.

Horticulture Exhibits:

Class I: Roses – Specimen or Collections (three or more varieties).

Class II: Herbs – Cut Specimen or Collection.

Class III: Seasonal Blooms – Specimen or Collection.

Bottles of your choice for presentation. See notes in the green book under Horticulture exhibit rules.

Photography Exhibits:

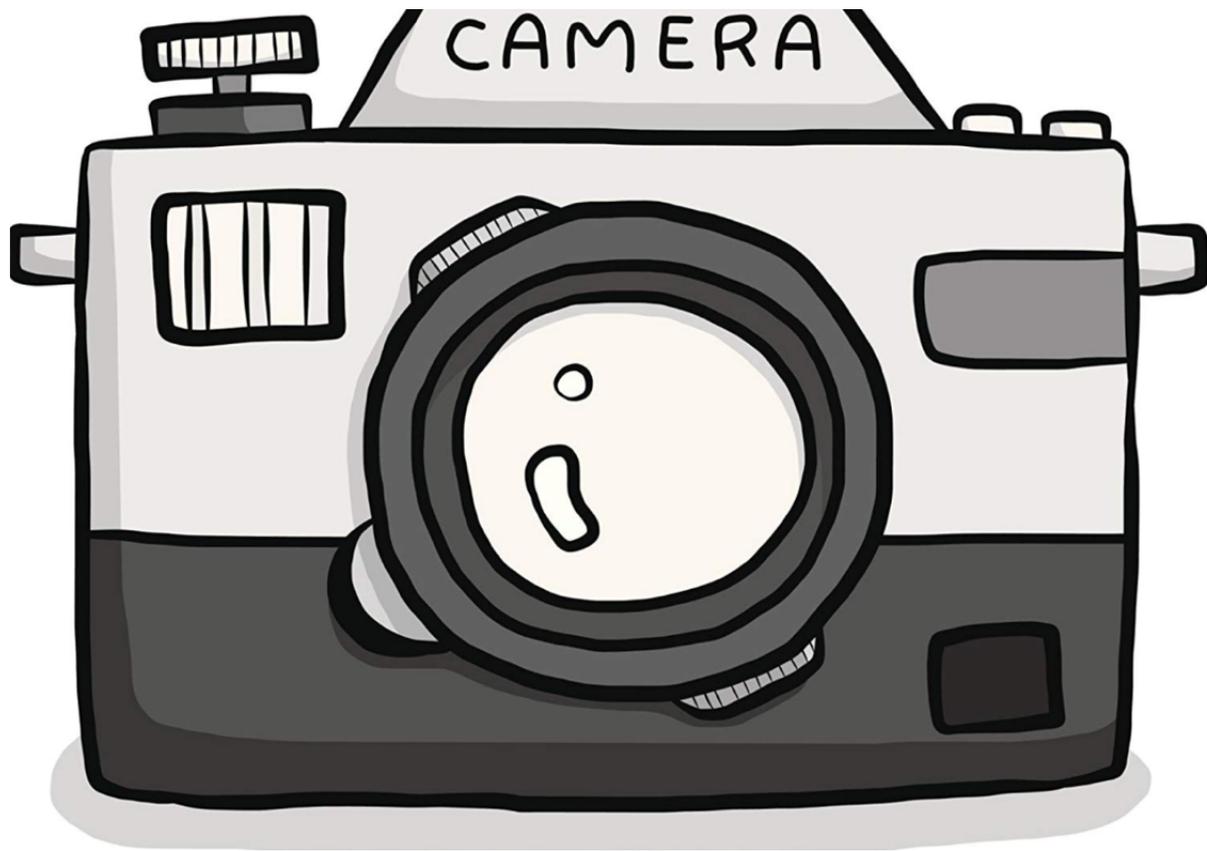
Class I: "Love thou thy rose, yet leave it on its stem." English writer, Edward Bulwer-Lytton, 1803-1873. A photograph of a rose still on its stem.

Attendance at Membership Meetings Reminder

In order to record membership attendance quickly and accurately, we will use pre-printed nametags. When you arrive, find your nametag and wear it. All un-claimed tags will tell me who did not attend the meeting. *Remember, our by-laws state active members are allowed three excused absences per year. If you cannot attend a meeting, please contact me via email or text prior to the meeting.* Thank you!

Ellen Buoyer
Recording Secretary
5buoyers@gmail.com
804-402-4387 (cell)





We have exciting news....we have an opportunity to exhibit photography at all of our meetings this year!

You will find a photography schedule for each meeting and instructions for exhibiting your photos on the website or in your green book. I think you will find the schedule to be fun and easy! I will have 5 x 7 white mattes at each meeting to use for display. At our September meeting photo exhibits will share the Class I theme from Horticulture and that is the Rose! Bring in your photos of a “rose still on its stem”!

On another note, I would love to have some of you join me at a photography workshop at The Kent Valentine on Sept. 12 at 9:30! Check out the details at www.gcvirginia.org. (The password is “greenarrow” if you forgot like me!) See you all soon! Don’t forget to “smile for the camera” when you see me coming!

Chandler Klevana

TGC Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee will be meeting soon to begin discussions on a new slate of officers for 2020-22. The Committee is composed of the following members:

Chair, Libby Robertson

.....

Kelly Armstrong, Martha Moore, Molly Revere and Kathy Watson.

Thank you ladies, for serving in this important capacity for our club. Members, be sure to say yes if they call!

TGC Gift Committee

Each year the Tuckahoe Garden Club makes monetary gifts to various organizations and projects. The Green Book lists projects and some organizations which have benefitted from our gifts. The list is long, beginning with our first gift in 1930. Organizations and projects that are chosen are in line with the purpose of our club. This year we will continue to fund "Partners 4 Plants," a GCA project that we are undertaking with James River Garden Club. In the past we have made gifts to The Massey Cancer Center Healing Garden, Maymont for the creation of a natural habitat for raptors and eagles, Peter Paul Development Center for a garden shed and tools, and Varina's Farmer's Market.

Have an organization in mind? Know of a needy garden project? Please help TGC continue its community outreach by submitting proposals for community projects. You can email, text or call me regarding any proposals you would like to submit for consideration. The committee would like to have the information by October 15.

Susan Landin, Chair

Sgl3205@gmail.com; 804-833-9600

TGC Treasurer Update

Treasurer Update

As we close out our current fiscal year and begin a new one, I'm happy to report that we finished the year positive vs. our budget. I'd like to thank each committee chair who worked hard to stay within their budgets for the year! Now it is time to collect our member dues for this new year. You will receive an email with your dues letter in early September indicating the amount you personally are to pay based on your membership category.

As a reminder our dues are as follows:

As a reminder our dues are as follows.

Membership Category	Dues Assessment
Active	\$250
Inactive	\$250
New Members	\$350
Sustainer Emeritus	\$176
Sustainer	\$250
Non-resident GCA Primary	\$102
Non-resident GCA Secondary	\$40
Honorary	\$62
optional journal fee	\$20

Please bring your check, payable to Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton to the first meeting, or you may mail it to me. **New this year is the exciting opportunity to pay your dues with a credit card through our new website! A small convenience fee will be added to offset the bank fees, but it will save you the trouble of writing a check, searching for a stamp, etc.!**

Please contact me, Bonnie Cricchi, Treasurer, if there are any questions bonniecricchi@gmail.com.

Thank you!

TGC Spring Sale Fall Bulbs



THE BULBS ARE COMING!
(For Fall Planting and Spring 2020 Blooms)

The Spring Sale Committee is enticing us to add some color to our Gardens for Historic Garden week and beyond with bulbs, beautiful bulbs! These bulbs are from a tested source from the Netherlands and you will NOT be

bulbs are from a tested source from the Netherlands and you will NOT be disappointed! Add some color to your garden and add some fun to your life!

Order forms will be emailed in early August, due September 18th at our first meeting and you will receive your bulbs at the October meeting.

PLANT....GROW....ENJOY.

TGC Membership Update

We are delighted to announce that we will be accepting seven new members into our club this fall. Please begin thinking about friends and acquaintances whom you believe to be ideal candidates for membership. While doing so, please also take a moment to review the membership requirements in the TGC handbook (page 54). We will be sending an email with details instructions and proposal forms in September, and let us know if you have any questions.

Elizabeth McGill and Janie Pinney

TGC Endowment

The Tuckahoe Garden Club Endowment
Donations and Gifts
February – May 2019

It is these donations and gifts that promise a bright future for the Tuckahoe Garden Club. We thank all members who help to seed our future and preserve our past. These monies help support our Club Projects and Special Gifts, in our local and state communities and throughout the Nation. These gifts preserve who we are and what we want to represent, and for this, and to all our membership, we are eternally grateful!

Susan Ewing.....In honor of Peyton Wells

Freddie Gray.....In honor of Sue Thompson and Abbie Wharton

Ann Ramsey.....Donation

Mollie Reinhart.....In honor of her proposer Freddie Gray, and her endorsers Martha Moore and Jennifer Sisk

Tricia Sauer.....In honor of Betty Jenkins and all past Club Presidents

Lena Scott.....Donation

Cabell West.....In honor of Peyton Wells

Peyton Wells

TGC Holiday Sale

HO! HO! HO!

It's the most wonderful time of the year!

Santa's elves have been busy working on some TGC cheer!

Channel your inner creativity and show off your personal talents. Whether from your studio, kitchen or garden, please bring at least one item to sell at the annual Christmas Sale. All proceeds will go to TGC. In addition, we will have other surprises for purchase from a curated group of Virginia artists and tastemakers. If you would like to be considered as inventor, please contact Beth Norfleet or Shelley Roberts by October. 1

Workshop: Dec 3 Sale: Dec 4.



"Shoe" by Gary Brookins and Susie MacNelly; reprint permission granted.
(Many thanks to Sara Cann for her idea to include this comic strip.)





Raindrops gather into a delicate puddle in the center of a lotus leaf (Nelumbo nucifera).

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA NEWS & INFORMATION



GARDEN CLUB

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

GCV DAFFODILS

Never Too Late For Daffodils

The 2019 test collection bulbs that many people ordered last spring will be delivered in October for fall planting. They will be available for pickup at our October meeting; please direct any questions regarding this pre-order to Sue Taylor directly (suetaylor4110@gmail.com).

If you missed out on the club's pre-order there is still time to place a personal order with Brent and Becky's directly. This year's GCV collection varieties are 'Orange Comet', 'Beautiful Eyes', 'Geranium', 'Actaea', and 'Smiling Twin'.

If you want more information and /or want to order the Daffodil Test Collection, you can print the order form after clicking this link

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AMQDD55dnCK3ad-98wj-T9BZDKkcptr/view?usp=sharing>

Or, you can call Brent and Becky's directly 877-661-2852.

You will need this information for the test bulb collection order: The item number for the test collection is 47-0155 and it is \$21 plus tax and shipping for the five varieties representing divisions 6,7,8,9,11. There are three bulbs of each type.

Lastly, if you want to order the special GCV Centennial bulb, Green Arrow, you can print the order form after clicking this link: | https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KyPCyCrJH4T2L8_k1bKL5c74jZbBWHcm/view?usp=sharing

Whether you order from Brent and Becky's the test collection and/or the Green Arrow daffodils, please be sure and mention our club by name and the **Blooming Bucks program** so we can get a percentage of the of the sale donated back to the club. We will get a nice percentage of your sale back into our coffers! Last year due to your orders and mentioning our club, Brent and Becky's sent us a check for over \$300!!

Sue Taylor





Green Arrow Daffodil

GCV LILY COLLECTION

The Garden Club of Virginia 2019 Lily Collection is now available. Each collection includes these six bulbs from B&D Lilies and costs \$32.75, including shipping. The deadline for ordering is September 25. If you would like to place an order, please make a check out to Jessica King and mail it to 6419 Three Chopt Road, 23226. The collections will be shipped next spring.

Garden Club of Virginia 2019 Lily Collection





Casablanca 7 (Oriental) White.
5-6', Jul/ Aug, Fragrant



Viva la Vida 8 (AO) Golden
yellow /red, 4', June-July



Redford 8 (OT) dk wine-red. 3-4',
July/ Aug, Fragrant



Secret Kiss 1a (Asiatic) Dk.
plum- red, 3-4', June



Zelmire 8 (OT) Salmon-coral,
3-4'. July, Fragrant



Zeba 8 (L. nepalense x O) white
with with red-black centers. 3-4',
July/Aug

GCV COMMONWEALTH AWARD

Common Wealth Award Finalists 2019

(We will vote on this award at the September meeting)

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

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

Peter Paul Development Center and Playground Enhancement Submitted by the Boxwood Garden Club

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

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

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

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

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

The Discovery Trail: Connecting Children With Nature Submitted by the Mill Mountain Garden Club

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

community, the current mulch trail that carries visitors across the property is not stroller or wheelchair accessible. The Common Wealth Award would provide funds for a redesigned "Discovery Trail." This environmentally sensitive, crushed stone trail will be user friendly, opening the garden for all visitors. With this revitalized trail, thousands of visitors can discover the magic of nature. But those who benefit the most are the children who are exposed to key educational concepts woven throughout the trail. The "wayfinding" on the trail encourages children to discover tree identification, pollinator and wildflower education, and pondside water play, among the many educational opportunities. The Common Wealth Award will allow the Mill Mountain Garden Club to develop the "discovery trail" and extend the magic of nature to all who enter.

Sara Cann

GCV CONSERVATION FORUM



Back to school, back to work and BACK TO NATURE! That's the name of this year's Garden Club of Virginia Conservation Forum. The Forum will take place at Natural Bridge, Virginia on September 24 and 25th. Your Horticulture Committee would like to encourage all members to go to the GCV website to review the details of the Forum and the Horticulture Schedule.

Some highlights: pollinators (we all know about and need these!), ferns, evergreen and deciduous tree branches. It also includes a "Picnic in the Park" category that is a sweet, savory or spicy food item with an ingredient from your garden! This schedule could not be any easier, especially for the beginner who wants to get involved- so let's plan on having a lot of exhibits this year.

Register on the GCV website by clicking this link <https://www.gcvirginia.org/event/> and mark your calendars now as the exhibits will be collected and transported down to Natural Bridge on Monday, September 23rd, with additional registration and judging beginning the next day at 10am.

Please let Susan Meyer know at 804-909-2226 or contention736@gmail.com if you would be willing to help gather and groom these exhibits. Many hands make light work and this should be fun! Thanks for your consideration.

Susan Meyer, horticulture co-chair





1920-2020



4 Richmond Garden Clubs Celebrate GCV's Centennial!!!!

Save the date: Tuesday, October 22nd

Time: 10 am

Place: the Low Line at 16th and Dock Street

Speakers:

- GCV President Jean Gilpin
- Mike Gorman, authoritarian on Lincoln's Landing in Richmond April 4, 1865 (at the location of the Low Line)

Ceremonial Planting of the 4 Garden Club's Gift to Capital Trees

Enjoy birthday cupcakes!

More Information to follow

SAVE THESE CENTENNIAL DATES:

September 24-25, 2019

Join us at Natural Bridge for "Horticulture, Hiking and the 61st Annual Conservation Forum: Canopy of Conservation." Register is open now on the GCV website or see message above

Canopy of Conservation. Register is open now on the GCV website or see message above.

October 22, 23 or 24, 2019

Celebrate GCV's 100th Birthday at the Low Line. There will be a tree planting, birthday cake, meet GCV's President- Jean Gilpin and a speaker to inform us of Lincoln's landing at the Low Line. Date to be determined.

May 12-14, 2020

Founders Day celebrations to be held in Richmond

Monday, May 12, 2020

- Evening reception at the Kent-Valentine House for GCV members and guests.

Tuesday, May 13, 2020

- Speaker Thomas Woltz, FASLA, is the owner of Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects in Charlottesville, VA. Mr. Woltz is currently working on these projects: Hudson Yards (NYC), Memorial Park (Houston), Aga Khan Garden (Alberta, Canada), and Cornwall Park (Auckland, New Zealand). He will speak at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture.

Wednesday, May 14, 2020

- Speaker Paula Pryke, O.B.E. (Order of the British Empire) is a world renowned British floral designer. She will give her talk and demonstration at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. She will speak at the VMFA.



TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020

- **Evening reception at the Kent-Valentine House**, 5 to 7 p.m. Come see your “home” refurbished and refreshed while visiting with GCV friends from all over the state. Enjoy wine and light refreshments. *Open to GCV members and their guests. No charge.*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020

- **Speaker Thomas L. Woltz at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture**
Registration begins at 10 a.m. Program at 10:30 a.m. *Garden & Gun* calls this rising star “a landscape architect committed to conservation and improving the world we live in.” *Open to members, their guests and the general public. \$40 per person.*
- **Luncheon** at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Marble Hall. 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. *Open to members, their guests and the general public. \$35 per person includes wine.*
- **Afternoon includes self-guided tours of seven GCV restoration sites** and an opportunity to shop or enjoy local attractions.
- **Gala Reception and Grand Opening of the GCV exhibition, *A Landscape Saved: The Garden Club of Virginia at 100***, at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture, 6 to 9 p.m. The story of the Garden Club of Virginia is colorful, courageous and impressive. Be the first to see it brought to life. Full bar and heavy hors d’oeuvres. Cocktail attire. *Open to GCV members and their guests. \$100 per person.*

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

- **Flower Arranging Demonstration with Paula Pryke** at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture. Registration begins at 10 a.m. Program at 10:30 a.m. Learn style secrets from this London-based floral designer honored by Queen Elizabeth and sought after by A-list clientele. *Open to members, their guests and the general public. \$75 per person.*

Learn more about the programming associated with the Centennial's year-long celebration and stay informed at GCVirginia.org/Centennial.
ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS OCT. 1, 2019.



Special thanks to

BARTLETT
TREE EXPERTS
SCIENTIFIC TREE CARE SINCE 1907

GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA *Historic Garden Week*

Mark Your Calendars Now for Historic Garden Week!

Richmond Tour Dates are April 22, 23, & 24, and there is a fantastic line-up of homes and gardens. Our club will supply ticket takers and flower arrangers, shuttle guides and hostesses. Later this fall you will

receive a preference sheet that will need to be filled out with your Top Three Choices for your shift requirement for Tuckahoe Garden Club. Just to get your mind imagining the beautiful homes in GCV's 100th Year take a peek at what is in store. Thank you!

Anne Poarch and Mary Kathryn Woodward

4/22 Wednesday: **Church Hill** (partnering with Historic Richmond Foundation) (tour headquarters at St. John's Church)

2300 E. Grace Street, the Hardgrove House (1849), Beth Flippo Martin and Bill Martin

2302 E. Grace Street, the Hilary Baker House (1813-1816), Julie Rautio and Robert Baratta

113 N. 25th Street (1846 with modern addition), Neely and Tod Kykshorn

2703-2705 E. Grace Street, the Shelton-Leftwich House (early 1800's), Billie and Stewart Leath

2714 E. Franklin Street (mid 1800's) , Pam & Larry Master

4/23 Thursday: **Monument Avenue** (tour headquarters at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts)

2300 Monument (1901), Kelli and Derek Lewis

2710 Monument (1914), Julie and Paul Weissend

3142 Monument (1922 Duncan Lee), Bill Crosby and Bill Hall

3200 Monument (1922 Duncan Lee), Colleen Hewitt

3209 Monument (1920's), Christina and Bookie Boland

4/24 Friday: **River Road**

(tour headquarters for the following properties at U of R's Jepson Alumni Center:)

6707 River (1916), Sarah and Winston Price

6709 River (2016), Carol and Ted Price

(tour headquarters for the following properties at All Saints Episcopal Church:)

8603 River, "Redesdale" manor house (1925 Bottomley)

8603 River, cottage (2010's) + Gillette walled garden

8701 River, "Longlea" poolhouse and barn and gardens



Agastache foeniculum, commonly known as anise hyssop, is an upright, clump-forming perennial of the mint family that is native to parts of the upper Midwest and Great Plains. It grows to 2-4' tall. It is noted for its mid- to late summer bloom of lavender to purple flowers in terminal spikes and its anise-scented foliage. Flowers are attractive to bees (good nectar plant), hummingbirds and butterflies. Aromatic leaves can be used to make herbal teas or jellies. Seeds can be added to cookies or muffins. Dried leaves can be added to potpourris. (Missouri Botanical Garden website)



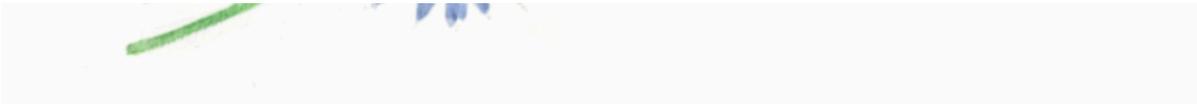


THE GARDEN CLUB *of* AMERICA

GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA NEWS &
INFORMATION

GCA SEED SHARE





The annual Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference "Horticulture Elevated" is coming and we need your help!

We need your beautiful garden seeds for Sue Thompson to share!

Here's how you do it: **BY Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 4TH @ 12:00 p.m. drop off at Rita Ryan's (8904 Highfield Road). If you cannot drop off your seeds, e-mail Rita Ryan [@ritamryan247@gmail.com](mailto:ritamryan247@gmail.com) or Missy Ryan missy.ryan@verizon.net and we will pick-up from you!**

1. Go out into your garden on a non-windy day and with clippers and small zip lock bags or small envelopes. Take a Sharpie pen, too. Notice which seeds from your garden are ready to harvest. Dry capsule seeds should be dark in color and have a harder covering. Ignore hybrids as they are often sterile or don't produce the same plant when they reproduce. Native perennials are always preferred. Remember, fruits have seeds in them but you need to separate the seed from the fruit flesh.

2. Select your seeds to harvest. Snip the seed head or fruit head and drop it directly into the envelope or zip lock bag. Immediately write what that seed is to avoid confusion later. Seeds really do look alike.

3. Separate the fruit from the seed, if necessary, and rinse and allow to completely dry.

4. On each zip lock bag or envelope of each seed variety, we need this information:

Your name

Seed/plant's common name,

Botanical name

Plant type: perennial or annual, tree, shrub

Necessary growing conditions

Any other information you care to add.

We will package and label all of your seed contributions the way the conference wants them to be if you will do steps 1-4 for us. If each of us contributes only 1-2 seed collections and drops them off on or before September 4th, it would be a terrific accomplishment. TGC would represent itself well at Shirley Meneice. Thank you for your support and generosity!

GCA CONSERVATION



THE WINDSHIELD PHENOMENON OR WHERE ARE ALL THE FIREFLIES?

“With each generation, the amount of environmental degradation increases, but each generation takes that amount as the norm.”

The New York Times Magazine published an article on December 2, 2018, written by Brooke Jarvis and entitled “The Insect Apocalypse Is Here”. While i am definitely not a proponent of mosquitoes and really not an admirer of any form of tick or chigger, I began reading this article and was alarmed as well as fascinated by the information.

Jarvis reports that there has been a well-documented decline in the entire wild biomass of the world in the past few decades....a decline that is alarming scientists around the world. Human and crop biomass comprise 94% of the world’s mass, leaving only 6% of the world with wild biomass?????

Bugs, though, are so prolific and often extraordinarily bothersome...I absolutely detest Japanese Beetles and mercilessly murder them whenever possible. So WHY worry about this?

There have been few longitudinal studies of insects primarily because there are so many billions of them, and they are small. Picnics with ants as the main guest have plagued me for as long as I can remember. Yet....there is now evidence of immense declines worldwide. It's not just the Monarch Butterfly that is worrying scientists.

Why worry? Well, for one thing, a lack of insects means a lot to our bird population as well as our grizzly bears are facing a critical lack of nutrition..where would bears be without the honey produced by bees?

Much of the new insect research is coming out of Europe where an OLD research is found. Europeans, and especially our British neighbors, have forever been amateur naturalists. There are collections of beetles and bats, that date back centuries! These "amateurs", though, are using today's technology to even further investigate phenomena that are worrying scientists worldwide.

A high school science teacher from Denmark, Sune Boye Riis, spent his childhood riding a bicycle around the countryside....and swallowing many bugs as he rode through woods! Years later Riis realized with a sense of alarmed bewilderment that the same bakeries with his son were now devoid of the experience of "eating bugs". Likewise, Riis remembered childhood drives in his family car, seeing literally thousands of insects smashed on the windshield. As an adult he noticed that this, too, was not happening. This lack of insect detritus is now referred to as the "Windshield Phenomenon"

Riis and 200 more Danes began driving around in their cars through cities and forests with insect nets attached to the rooftops to see if the decline on insects was really measurable. The study was picked up by numerous European universities as well as by NC State here in the US. Though there was doubt that this study would be taken seriously, another study wound up alerting scientists in 2016 to the same worrisome results.

Kresfeld, a small town in Germany, is the site of an obscure entomological society which published a paper in 2016. This report awakened scientists worldwide to a seeming apocalypse. To quote Brooke Jarvis: "Then came the German study.....the study brought forth longitudinal data they (entomologists) had been seeking, and it wasn't specific to just one type of insect. The numbers were stark, indicating a vast impoverishment of an entire insect universe...The speed and scale of the drop were shocking even to entomologists who were already anxious about bees or fireflies or the cleanliness of our windshields."

Statistics about the decline of our larger mammals such as tigers are well-known. Primary reasons for this loss of wild populations and literally biomass relate to climate change and loss of habitat. Scientists have noted declines throughout the natural, wild world of massive numbers of animals ranging from bluefin tuna to giraffes. The "number of Sophie the Giraffe toys sold in France in a single year is NINE times the number of all giraffes that still live in Africa".

Insects, though, are also facing a double whammy of insecticides as well as herbicides. Monarchs have had huge coverage due to their extraordinary beauty and migratory magnificence. Their numbers are down 90% in the U.S. over the past 20 years (though the Mexican migration numbers were up considerably this past year). Honeybees have been in the news constantly. Colony collapse....where bees are often not found dead in their hives but are just plain missing (possibly due to the neonicotinoid effect on their ability to find their hives)....has had intense study because of the direct effect of lack of pollination on crops. Beetles, bugs, spiders, thrips... whatever the type of insect, the loss is profound

pollination on crops. Bees, bugs, spiders, ants...whatever the type of insect, the loss is profound and alarming

So back to the beginning....why worry? If life is a web of interdependence of one species upon the other, then we need to think about consequences. If the soil is filled with billions of micro-organisms, if the birds we love to see and hear are losing their main food source, if the whole food chain is basically disrupted from the bottom up, what is going to happen? We are not able to say precisely why 8 in 10 of the partridges near French farmlands have disappeared, but there is a considered thought that the birds literally starved due to lack of food, Perhaps a fly-swatter is a better tool than a total-yard spray that will inadvertently kill more insects than we really need to kill. Fraser's outstanding article on healthy lawns gives us superb guidance on how to be green and safe.

I grew up chasing and catching lightning bugs. They were everywhere on a summer's night, and I probably contributed to their immediate demise in my neighborhood because I caught them in jars so that I could look at their lights in my bedroom at night. Today, though, and even while my children were growing up, there just are not as many. I miss them. Yet on a happy note, we have a pecan tree near our kitchen door. This past summer, it became to me a mini-phenomenon. It appeared to be "lit" at night, and it was! Fireflies filled its branches and provided for me a return to magic. SO....once again, plant a tree or two!

More research on the Windshield Phenomenon will be forthcoming. What do we do as individuals, then, to address this. Well, I am still going to put on a tick repellant if I am going to walk in the deep woods. I am also going to give myself some organic mosquito protection. I have vowed, though, to do a better job in my gardening practices. I won't use insecticides with neonicatinoids, have tried to find alternatives whenever possible to Round-up and other non-organic chemicals. When I do need to spray (for instance, leaf miner infestations on the old boxwood at our house), I do it when bees and bugs are not active. Take your children out on walks, stop to look at leaves and sticks, plant pollinators and marvel at butterflies and dragonflies, give your own insect populations pockets of habitation, and support efforts to keep our windshields dirty once again!

Sue Thompson and Abbie Wharton



GCA Annual Meeting Scarves

I will have samples again of these beautiful scarves at our September meeting with order forms. These scarves have been a BIG hit and sold out last spring. They have been reordered once with another order going on now. We encourage all members to buy one but especially our volunteers that are helping out at the Asheville meeting!!

Sara Cann

The Garden Club of America Annual Meeting 2020

MOVING MOUNTAINS together

Annual Meeting Scarf Order Form



Our 2020 scarves feature hand-painted state flowers and the mountains, rolling hills and bluegrass of Zone VII: Kentucky – Goldenrod (*Solidago gigantea*), North Carolina and Virginia – American Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), West Virginia – American Rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*)

To purchase with check, complete and return the form below. Please make checks payable to The Garden Club of America. Mail to Mrs. Jan Crawford, 6452 Summer Place, Paducah, Kentucky 42001

Credit card purchases will begin June 1 in the Members area of the GCA website under 'Read, Watch, Shop.'

Quantity:	35" Square Black Silk Crepe de Chine @ \$135.00 each	\$
Quantity:	16.5" x 77" Oblong, Gray Silk/Satin Charmeuse @ \$135.00 each	\$
Quantity:	16.5" x 77" Oblong, Teal Georgette @ \$135.00 each	\$
Quantity:	16.5" x 77" Oblong, Blue Silk Crepe de Chine @ \$135.00 each	\$
	Add \$5.00 shipping per order up to 4 scarves	\$
	Total	\$

Name:
Ship to:
Phone, Email:

Use only: _____ Scarf received, order is complete _____ Process payment and ship scarf

Questions: am2020scarf@gcamerica.org

Partners for Plants



A great day was had by our small but mighty crew on our last Partners 4 Plants workday, July 22nd, at Chapel Island. Temperatures were close to 100 degrees but we found shade, cool river breezes and wonderful fellowship as we tackled this invasive Japanese Hops vine. Just look at this pile in the photo below! And it was just one of several huge piles! **SUCH FUN AND SATISFYING WORK! Imagine what we can do this year with a larger work force!!** So GET EXCITED LADIES about our next workday at Chapel Island on **Thursday, September 26th from 4-5:30pm!!** We will meet a bit before 4 at the Great Shiplock Park parking lot at the corner of Pear Street and Dock Street. We will have a raffle for a fabulous bottle of Sauvignon Blanc - weeds and wine and a really good time! See you there!

Freddie Gray and Kelly Wilbanks

PULL OUT YOUR CALENDARS AND MARK THESE DATES!

The four Chapel Island work dates scheduled for 2019-20 are:

September 26 4:00-5:30pm

October 28 1:00-3:00pm

2020

March 23 1:00-3:00pm

May 28 4:00-5:30pm.





GCA FLORAL DESIGN TIPS





Wait til you hear this !!
Florists swear by this product and so will you.

Chrysal Clear Professional 2 “T-Bags”

These “T-Bags” are the perfect conditioning product for all cut flowers.
They increase vase life by 50%, optimize water intake, and provide improved color retention.

And they are easy to use.
Just drop one tea bag in a gallon of clean water.

Available from Amazon and wholesale floral supply houses.

Try these and enjoy your flowers longer.

You’ll want to spread the word.



Tell us what you think about this newsletter format and content! Email Jill Mountcastle jbmountcastle@mac.com with any comments, questions or concerns.

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