


**From:** Tuckahoe Garden Club Newsletter Editor [tuckahoegardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:tuckahoegardenclub@gmail.com)   
**Subject:** Please read and enjoy this update from "The Tuckahoe News"  
**Date:** February 16, 2020 at 8:19 AM  
**To:** [jbmountcastle@mac.com](mailto:jbmountcastle@mac.com)

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# THE TUCKAHOE NEWS



February 2020

*"Read, Enjoy, and Stay Informed"*





Photo from our October 2018 meeting when Peyton Wells led a workshop on creating botanical art. We learned how to make exquisite miniature birds and their nests.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them.”

— Aristotle, The Nicomachean Ethics

Who would have thought I'd be quoting Aristotle? And he probably never ever imagined that his wisdom would be shared with a garden club! **Yes, we learn by doing. So, please take a minute and look at the fabulous exhibits planned for February and March and “do” them.** Check them out-I've summarized them below. There are so many great opportunities to learn here and there are many wonderful members in our club who will gladly hold your hand with any one of these:

ARTISTIC: Try your hand at a botanical arts arrangement.

HORTICULTURE: Search your yards or your alleyways, or friends' yards and find that special branch or bloom. Try forcing a branch-it will make spring feel that much closer! And please note this-to participate in the March horticulture exhibit, you will need to start thinking about preparing your exhibit now.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Participate in our latest artistic addition to exhibits.

**Let's all participate in one of these great learning experiences:**

FEBRUARY

Artistic Exhibits:

- Class I: February is Women's Heart Health Month. “Go Red” is the tagline. Make an arrangement using only red flowers, berries, etc. Greens may be incorporated, but the arrangement should be mostly red flowers. The container of your choice.
- Class II: Create your own botanical arts arrangement as done in last year's workshop taught by Peyton Wells.

Horticulture Exhibits:

- Class I: Forced branch not to exceed 24"
- Class II: Non-forced blooms, for example: plum blossom, daphne, wintersweet.
- Class III: Evergreens with cones or with berries.
- Class IV: Your favorite bare branch or dried plant material.

Note: To participate in the March horticulture exhibits, note that preparation needs to begin in February.

Photography Exhibits:

- Class I: "I love red so much that I almost want to paint everything red," Alexander Calder. A photo where red is the dominant color.

MARCH

Artistic Exhibits:

- Class I: Incorporate any type of organic produce into an early spring arrangement. Container is your choice.
- Class II: Create an arrangement using branches and/or berries from your yard. Container should be opaque glass, porcelain, or metal.
- Class III: Happy 100th Birthday Garden Club of Virginia! Create an arrangement to celebrate our Centennial and reflect the Mission Statement of the GCV... "To celebrate the beauty of the land, to conserve the gifts of nature..." No rules on materials or container.

Horticulture Exhibits:

- Class I: Plant a salad bowl in late February with three to five edibles found in the kitchen garden. Provide an unlined 4"x6" card with names of plant material in waterproof ink.
- Class II: Plant a four-pack of different seed varieties and exhibit your sprouts.

Photography Exhibits:

- Class I: Exhibit a photograph of organic produce.
- Class II: Celebrate GCV's Centennial Birthday. Exhibit a photograph from a Virginia State Park visit (name the park) or a photograph of one of the 39 GCV Restoration Projects (several of which are in Richmond). Name the site. Can be color or black and white.

See you Wednesday. Let's have lots of exhibits!

Betty





# TGC NEWS & INFORMATION

## NEXT MEETING INFORMATION

February 19, 2020 (Wednesday)

Hostesses: \*Elizabeth McGill, Mary Kathryn Woodward, Abbie Wharton

Place: St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 12291 River Road, 23238

Time: 12:30 pm Refreshments & Guest Speaker 1:00 pm

Program: An arranging presentation by Gregory Britt of Gregory Britt Design, Keswick, VA. "The Nice Guy Who Creates Epic Floral Artistry."

Exhibits Information-see Betty's message above!





A circular logo with a blue background and white text. The text reads "Tuckahoe Garden Club" in a cursive font, followed by a small white flower icon, and then "Spring Sale" in a cursive font. The logo is set against a background of green foliage, including ferns and shrubs.

Tuckahoe  
Garden Club

Spring  
Sale

## **Spring is here... Come shop with us!**

- \* Herbs, Annuals, Perennials, Shrubs & Hard to find plants
- \* Planted pots, garden accessories, loads of vendors and more!

**Wednesday, April 15, 9:00-4:00**

400 Harlan Circle    Richmond, Virginia

***Order ahead at: [www.tuckahogardenclub.com](http://www.tuckahogardenclub.com)***

### **A great little plant sale for gardeners!**

The Spring Plant Sale Committee is gearing up, gathering plant ideas and containers for the sale. We will be working with great suppliers again this year, and we will provide the best quality plants we can find! Our herb grower, Lavender Fields/ A Thyme to Plant, is closing its doors (we will miss them!), but we already found two new organic growers that we will be able to use. We have a new offering, a special "Lunch and Learn" on Jennifer's back porch that you will not want to miss! More details to come.

Tricia Sauer has generously offered to make us some new Tuckahoe Garden Club notecards from her beautiful photographs. Keep these in mind for spring and summer gifts.

Think Spring! What will you be needing for your garden? Let us know if you have any special requests that we can order for you or find for your garden. If you have any gently used pots you would like to donate (we love matching pairs!), please drop them off on Martha Moore's driveway by April 1. Let Martha know what you are bringing. We will re-pot these and make them beautiful for the sale.

We will have a PRESALE FORM available in early March which will be due back March 31.

We will be passing around volunteer sign up sheets at the February meeting to help with shifts for the set-up dates of Monday, April 13, and Tuesday, April 14 and then for Sale Day Wednesday, April 15th.

**Volunteering at the plant sale is FUN! You learn a lot about different plants, and more importantly you get to know your fellow club members.**

Looking forward to Spring!

Your Spring Sale Team

Martha Moore, Kathy Watson, Patricia Hunter, Molly Revere, Charlotte Clarkson, Penny Peebles, and Lisa Brennan



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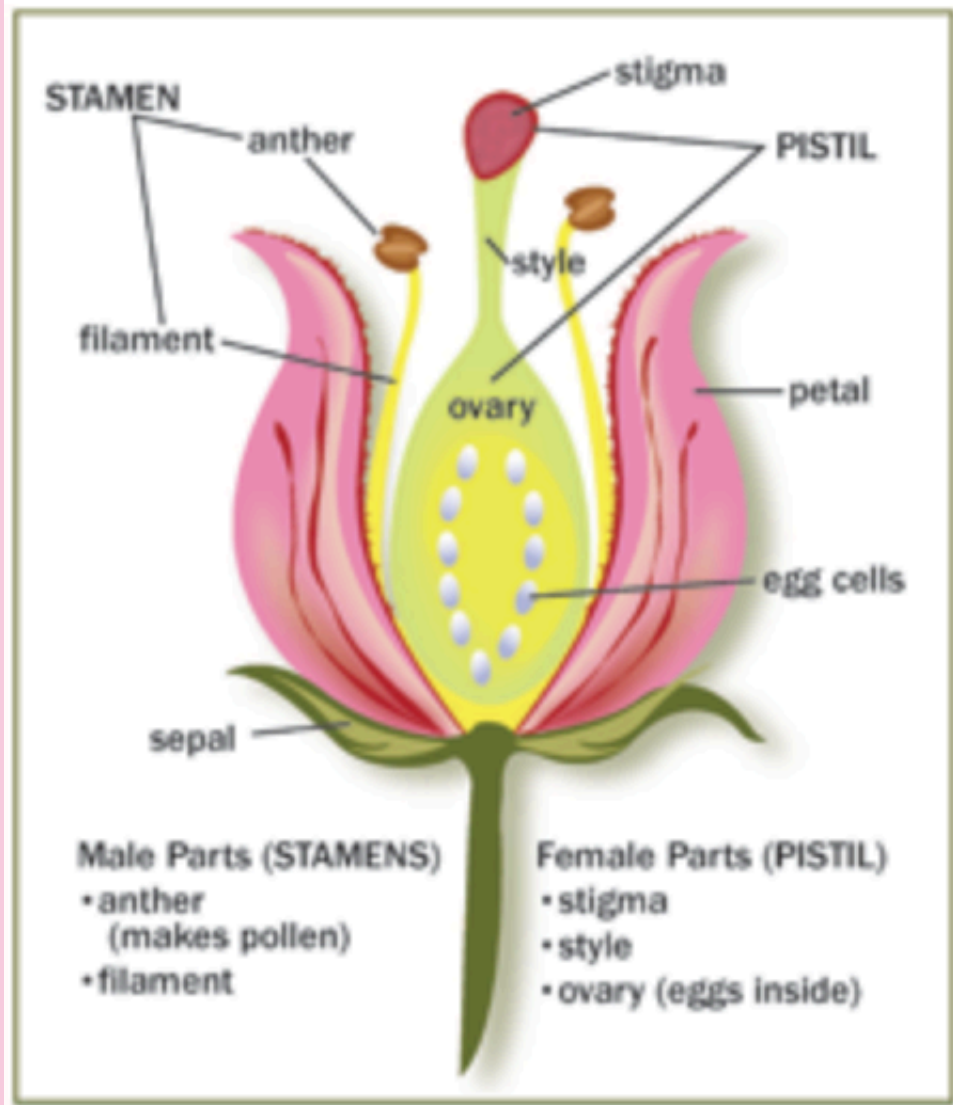
## TGC Volunteer Job Opportunities

Ladies, the baton is about to be passed! Jennifer is working diligently on her committee assignments for the next two years and will be calling soon! When she calls, please say yes! And remember this quote

that someone gave me once....”If someone offers you an amazing opportunity but you are not sure you can do it, say yes-then learn how to do it later.” That advice has proved me well over the years. I’m so glad I said “yes” two years ago and you will be too!

Betty

## TGC Conservation



**Pollinators need you. You need pollinators.**

Birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles, and other small mammals that pollinate plants are responsible for bringing us one out of every three bites of food. They also sustain our ecosystems and produce our natural resources by helping plants reproduce. Pollinating animals travel from

and produce our natural resources by helping plants reproduce. Enabling animals travel from plant to plant carrying pollen on their bodies in a vital interaction that allows the transfer of genetic material critical to the reproductive system of most flowering plants – the very plants that bring us countless fruits, vegetables, and nuts, ½ of the world's oils, fibers and raw materials; prevent soil erosion, and increase carbon sequestration. This nearly invisible ecosystem service is a precious resource that requires attention and support - - and in disturbing evidence found around the globe, is increasingly in jeopardy. Pollinator Partnership (P2) urges you know how this system supports you, and how your actions can help support healthy and sustainable pollination.

### **What is pollination?**

When a pollen grain moves from the anther (male part) of a flower to the stigma (female part), pollination happens. This is the first step in a process that produces seeds, fruits, and the next generation of plants. This can happen through self-pollination, wind and water pollination, or through the work of vectors that move pollen within the flower and from bloom to bloom.

### **Who are the pollinators?**

Birds, bats, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, wasps, small mammals, and most importantly, bees are pollinators. They visit flowers to drink nectar or feed off of pollen and transport pollen grains as they move from spot to spot.

### **Why are pollinators important?**

Some of the many foods that rely on pollinators! Somewhere between 75% and 95% of all flowering plants on the earth need help with pollination – they need pollinators. Pollinators provide pollination services to over 180,000 different plant species and more than 1200 crops. That means that 1 out of every three bites of food you eat is there because of pollinators. If we want to talk dollars and cents, pollinators add 217 billion dollars to the global economy, and honey bees alone are responsible for between 1.2 and 5.4 billion dollars in agricultural productivity in the United States. In addition to the food that we eat, pollinators support healthy ecosystems that clean the air, stabilize soils, protect from severe weather, and support other wildlife.

### **What do we know about their status?**

Pollinator populations are changing. Many pollinator populations are in decline and this decline is attributed most severely to a loss in feeding and nesting habitats. Pollution, the misuse of chemicals, disease, and changes in climatic patterns are all contributing to shrinking and shifting pollinator populations. In some cases there isn't enough data to gauge a response, and this is even more worrisome.

Source: [Pollinator.org](http://Pollinator.org)

### **Pollinators for our Area:**

Asclepias sp., native milkweeds  
Cercis canadensis, redbud  
Hydrangea quercifolia, oakleaf hydrangea  
Rhododendron canescens, native azalea  
Baptisia australis, blue wild indigo  
Coreopsis verticillata, threadleaf coreopsis  
Lonicera sempervirens, coral honeysuckle  
Gelsemium sempervirens, yellow jessamine  
Passiflora incarnata, passion flower  
Agastache 'Blue Fortune', giant hyssop  
Heuchera americana, coral bells  
Rudbeckia triloba, brown eyed susan  
Coreopsis sp., tickseed

\*This is a very limited list, for more information go to the Pollinator Partnership website

**Local Nurseries:**

Sandy's Plants  
Sneed's Nursery  
Stranges Nursery  
Colesville Nursery

**Mail order:**

Johnny's Selected Seeds  
Southern Exposure Seed Exchange  
High Country Gardens  
Prairie Moon

**Great App:**

BeeSmart

There is a plethora of information on the GCA website. Log in, go to Committee pages, Horticulture committee page and scroll down to Pollinators and Native Plants.

Sue Thompson and Abbie Wharton

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### Join the Queen Bee Challenge Facebook Group!

Members, do you remember at the November meeting I asked for interest in receiving Eva Clarke's monthly conservation articles? Here is your invitation to join the group on Facebook. Click on the link to request to join <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1661127250868562/>

This forum is our opportunity to exchange conservation insights, news articles, and exchange ideas. Share your conservation news-- eco news, events, nature photos, research, and events with each other. Join the Queen Bee Challenge facebook group! Eva started this along with a few conservation committee members from James River Garden Club and it now includes members from all four RVA GCV clubs -- Tuckahoe, Three Chopt and Boxwood. Stay in the know.

Together we can **Bee Sustainable** and make a difference!

Betty

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## TGC History





## **TGC & BANDY FIELD**

In 2004, The Garden Club of Virginia awarded the Common Wealth Award to The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton and Boxwood Garden Club for their collaboration on Bandy Field Nature Park.

Established in 1979, the Common Wealth Award recognizes member clubs to promote their work on projects in the areas of conservation, preservation, and education. For Bandy Field, the funds supported the installation of permanent signs and maps, ecology boxes for local schools to educate students on wetlands and natural habitats, educating and training volunteers to lead environmental programs, and two roadside planting areas.

The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton and Boxwood Garden Club have been actively involved in protecting and preserving Bandy Field as a natural, open green space. The garden clubs began working with the “Friends of Bandy Field” in 1998 to lobby Richmond City Council to add Bandy Field to the city’s park system while removing it as a potential surplus property for future development. With the help of The Garden Club of Virginia, our club has also contributed funds and volunteers to help establish butterfly, wetland and wild flower habitats, remove invasive plants, and assist in the planting of trees and shrubs.

Bandy Field is an 18-acre property that includes 5 acres of wooded area and 13 acres of open fields used for recreational and educational activities. Originally, the property straddled the line between the City of Richmond and Henrico County before being purchased in 1955 by the city for a potential school site. During the 1980s and 1990s, the city was under pressure to sell the property for development. Neighbors in the area and local civic associations joined forces to protect this last open green space and park in Richmond’s West End by forming the “Friends of Bandy Field” coalition. An on-going effort brought together many diverse groups working to maintain Bandy Field for multiple purposes. Other organizations supporting the Bandy Field restoration include the City of Richmond Parks and Recreation Department, The Virginia Native Plant Society, and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

Macon Willingham

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# Bloomin' Bucks

with Brent and Becky's Bulbs

## FREE MONEY FOR TGC!

New (and seasoned) members....remember this!

Want to order spring and summer bulbs (or a gift, tools, gift cards, etc.) from Brent and Becky's?

**Remember they will give a percentage of your order back to Tuckahoe Garden Club if you mention their "Bloomin Bucks" program.**

**Last year several hundred dollars went into our coffers because of your orders. THANK YOU!**

Ready to place your Brent and Becky's order?

FIRST: Go to [www.bloominbucks.com](http://www.bloominbucks.com) and from a pull down menu you will see our club listed; select TGC and a nice percentage of your order will come back to us. **Their spring bulbs are now available for purchase.** Fall bulbs will be available sometime in March.

Check out Bloomin' Bucks and place your order to get "free money" for TGC!!

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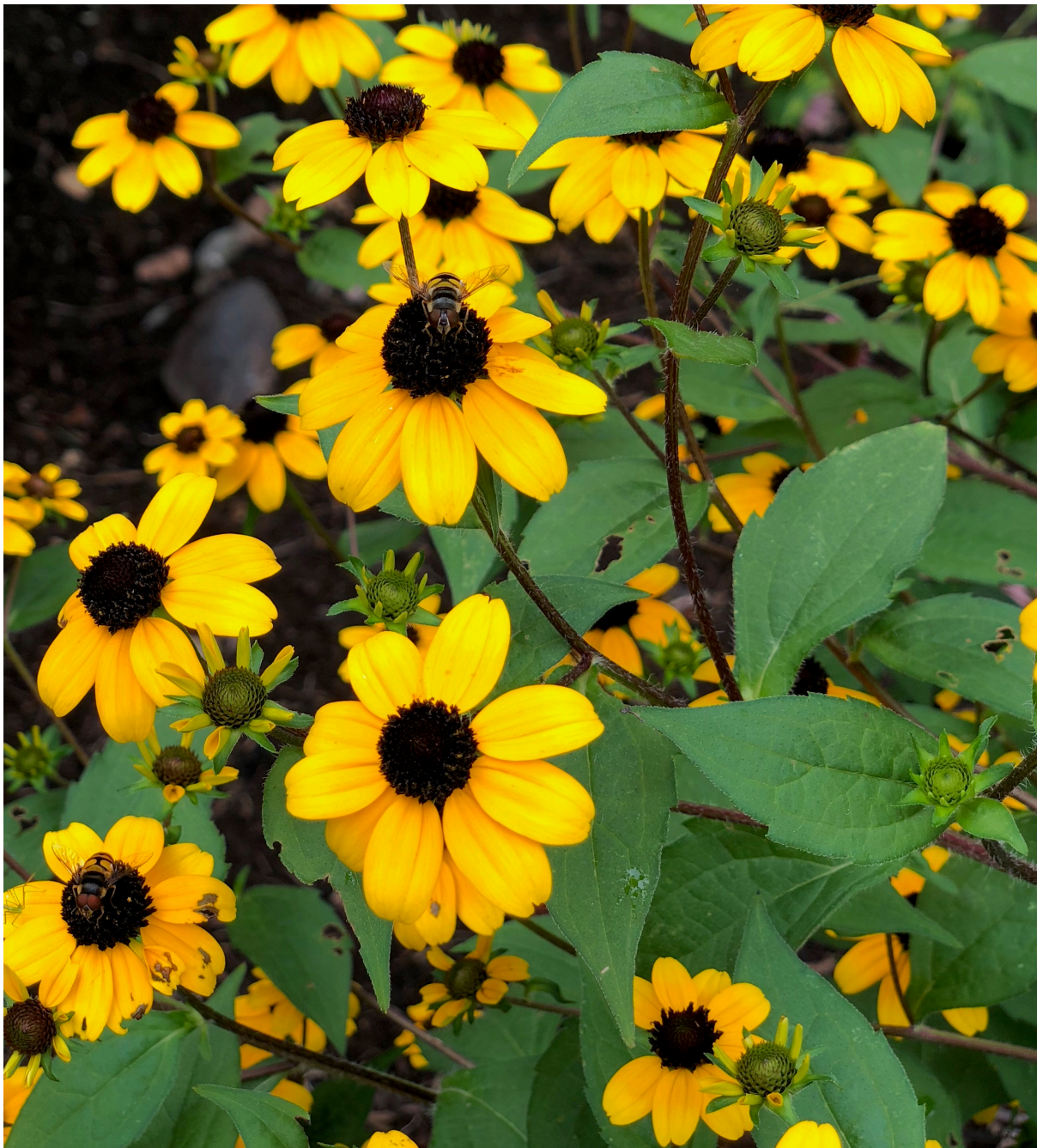
MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR AN “ARTSY” EVENING

TGC COCKTAIL PARTY-REYNOLDS GALLERY

MARCH 26-6:30pm

INVITATION TO FOLLOW

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*A bumblebee gathers pollen from a native pollinator, Rudebeckia triloba.*

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## GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA NEWS & INFORMATION



# GARDEN CLUB OF VIRGINIA

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## GCV CONSERVATION







Determined TGC members braved chilly, dreary weather, tight parking, and crowded, slow elevators to advocate for GCV legislative positions to state delegates and senators at Conservation Lobby Day on the morning of January 28. Members visited their elected representatives during appointments scheduled by the Virginia Conservation Network (<http://www.vcnva.org/about-us/>) to “help the community speak with one coordinated voice.” Other nonprofits with conservation goals attended these meetings with us.

While all of our elected representatives agreed to meet with us, the conservation-minded delegates and senators warmly welcomed our visits. We spoke with Senators Ghazala Hashmi (District 10 [ghazalahashmi.com](http://ghazalahashmi.com)) and Mark Peake (District 22 [district22@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district22@senate.virginia.gov)) as well as Delegates Dawn Adams (District 68 [delegateadams.com](http://delegateadams.com)) and John McGuire (District 56 [DelJMcGuire@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelJMcGuire@house.virginia.gov)) about GCV’s positions on legislation currently before the 2020 Virginia General Assembly, and we drew their attention to specific issues such as billboard loopholes and single-use plastics (ex: ban releasing balloons, taxing plastic bags).

It is important that we all learn and understand the GCV positions we communicated to our elected officials; if you care to, please take a quick moment to skim this summary of the advocated positions by clicking this link:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/6e34a939001/f0aadb6d-1504-4021-beda-c245b73ef3b1.pdf>

- **Supports Legislation to Address Climate Change and Recurrent Flooding;**
- **Supports Legislation to Promote Clean Energy;**
- **Supports the Protection of Historic Viewsheds;**
- **Supports Efforts to Protect and Improve Water Quality;**
- **Supports Managing Polluted Runoff to Protect Virginia’s Waterways;**
- **Supports Localities' Authority to Capitalize on the Water-Quality Benefits of Trees;**
- **Supports Legislative Action that Protects and Enhances Virginia State Parks;**
- **Supports Legislative Action to Strengthen Land Conservation;**
- **Supports Regulation of Billboards;**
- **Opposes Oil and Gas Drilling and Seismic Testing off the Coast of Virginia;**
- **Supports Legislative Action Allowing for Control of Proliferation of Disposable Plastic Bags;**
- **Supports Environmental Education;**

Comments on Legislation concerning protection of National Parks by Communities and

- **Supports Legislation promoting planting of native plants in Communities; and**
- **Supports Budget for Natural Resources.**

We enjoyed the opportunity to represent our club and advocate for these important conservation efforts on behalf of GCV at Conservation Lobby Day.

Hylah Boyd, Jill Mountcastle, Sue Thompson, and Cabell West



### **REFUSE TO USE (PLASTIC) UPDATE EXCITING NEWS!**

Last month I reported that I would investigate alternative ways for avoiding that plastic bag that covers clothes from the dry cleaners. Well, good news!

- I asked my dry-cleaning company if I could bring my own hanging clothes bag to cover my clothes once they are cleaned and stored for pick up. They said yes! I left my bag (a Saks cloth bag from a recent purchase), put my name on it and, voila, upon pick up, my husband's shirts were in that bag! How about that! So, try it with your dry cleaners and maybe we will be a force for change!
- Also, I cringe when I take boxes carrying things I have ordered online to my recycling can. Sure, they will be recycled, but why not RE-USED? The UPS store in the Ellwood Thompson's shopping area will take your boxes and re-use them, provided they are in good shape. I advise removing your shipping label. I was thrilled when they told me this! Another way to avoid using plastic...by re-using cardboard!

Check out these other recycling suggestions Linda Hanson shared with me!:

The UPS store will take the packing popcorn and other plastic packing materials from packages.

For that tub of used/broken crayons stashed away: <https://crazycrayons.com/crayon-recycle-program/>

For clothes, shoes to donate to really good causes (that you don't want to give to Goodwill):

[www.dressforsuccess.org](http://www.dressforsuccess.org)

<https://bootstosuits.org/donations>

<https://soles4souls.org/get-involved/give-shoes/donate/>

<http://www.givebackbox.com/index>

Do you have other methods to “refuse to use” plastic? Send them to me!

Betty

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## GCV BESSIE BOCOCK CARTER CONSERVATION AWARD

We have two awards to vote on at the February meeting; one is a GCV award, the other is GCA. The GCV Bessie Bockock Carter Conservation Award provides funding to member club conservation or environmental protection projects that will serve as a catalyst for community action within the Commonwealth.

Please take the time to read the descriptions below of the two nominees prior to the meeting in order to cast your votes! Questions? Contact Sara Cann.

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### **Bessie Bockock Carter Conservation Award Finalists**

The Little Garden Club of Winchester proposes the *Weir Garden at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley*. Stone weirs – low, dam-like structures – will regulate water flow during periods of extreme precipitation and will provide educational opportunities on the importance of storm water management. Among the many visitors to the museum are thousands of school children who enjoy the site annually free of charge. When cleared of invasive plants, a garden of wildflowers and a grassy meadow will be established among the weirs, serving not just as a storm water management and teaching tool but also as a naturally managed wildlife habitat, inspiring future generations to conserve our waterways. Along with this project, the Little Garden Club has sponsored the museum’s entranceway wildflower meadow and will continue to serve as an ambassador for conservation awareness in the Winchester community. The Weir Garden is a significant component of a trail system on the museum’s grounds, which will become Virginia’s largest public art park when it opens in 2020. Collaborations at the community and state level will encourage exploration of the relationship between art, nature, conservation and the environment.

The Lynchburg Garden Club and Hillside Garden Club will partner with the City of Lynchburg and Crowther Landscape Architecture in *phase two of a Roadside Biodiversity Initiative launched in 2019*, when we successfully established three acres of wildflower pollinator beds on local highways. In 2020-2021, we will install several large native plant demonstration beds, with signage, along a heavily traveled Lynchburg highway. The beds will feature pollinator-friendly native trees, shrubs and perennials and will provide continuous bloom throughout the growing season. During the winter, the beds’ plant material will

provide continuous bloom throughout the growing season. During the winter, the faded plant material will be left intact to provide food and habitat for insects and wildlife. Because the passersby may not appreciate a highly visible public garden that looks neglected, we will launch an educational campaign about this process through local media. The demonstration beds will serve as a model for promoting biodiversity. By boldly demonstrating this naturalistic approach to landscaping in a highly visible location, we will educate the public about the importance of native plants and continuous habitat and provide a model that can be used statewide on highways and in residential gardens. The project will serve as a conservation ideal that supports the local ecosystem.

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### **It's No Secret: D-Day is March 31st!**

The annual Garden Club of Virginia and the American Daffodil Society Show will be held on March 31st at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden and is open to the public from 2:00-5:00pm. Our club has a long history of participating in this beautiful show and we want this year to be no exception.

In addition to attending, there are so many ways to participate. One of the easiest is to help collect cultivars for the inter-cub test collection. Sue Taylor is putting the collection together and is looking for members who have purchased and grown test collections from 2009-2018. We need twelve different blooms from at least four of these years for our display. As March 29-30th approaches, please check your garden for what is in bloom from these test collections. They are listed by name/photos to help you identify them on the GCV website:

[https://www.gcvirginia.org/warehouse/fm/documents/flower\\_collections/DaffodilCollectionsArchives3.pdf](https://www.gcvirginia.org/warehouse/fm/documents/flower_collections/DaffodilCollectionsArchives3.pdf).

Sue is willing to come by your gardens, cut blooms, and do the identification if you are not able to get them to her by March 30th, already identified. If you have a beautiful specimen and do not know what it is, let Sue know and she can play detective and find out!



is, let Sue know and she can play detective and find out:

The crucial part is that we need lots of blooms to meet both quality and criteria. Don't forget that you can enter these same cultivars, as well as the 2019 and earlier test collections, as individual specimens under your own name. You would be surprised that it is easier than you think to take home a ribbon. The GCV Daffodil show website (<https://www.gcvirginia.org/daffodilday/>) has all the information you need to enter. Many classes use multiple blooms and spell out the directions very clearly.

Lastly, it's not too late to register for the Daffodil Workshop on March 23 at the Kent Valentine House from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For anyone wanting to enter any class, this workshop will be extremely helpful. Please register now at:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=g4quzjcab&oeidk=a07egufq2ctab480650>

Or follow the link on the GCV Homepage. If you know you want to enter something, go ahead and register; however, you can enter individual blooms without pre-registering.

Sue Taylor







THE GARDEN CLUB *of* AMERICA

GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA NEWS &  
INFORMATION

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GCA FOUNDERS FUND

We have two awards to vote on at the February meeting; this one, the Founders Fund, is a GCA award. Please take the time to read the description below of each nominee prior to the meeting in order to cast your votes!

The GCA Founders Fund is a \$30,000 award (plus additional \$10,000 for two runner-ups) recognizing projects that support and advance the GCA purpose statement. The complete write up can be found in your most recent GCA Bulletin. Questions? Contact Sara Cann.



2020 FOUNDERS FUND AWARD FINALISTS  
Proposal Summaries

**Permaculture Sanctuary: Promoting Trauma Resilience through  
Regenerative Gardening**

Proposed by: Twin City Garden Club, Zone VII  
Seconded by: The French Broad River Garden Club Foundation, Zone VII

Children who have experienced trauma deserve a sanctuary. TCGC's budding permaculture food and sensory garden, co-created with Crossnore's Miracle Grounds Farm, serves 450 children daily, including 45 resident foster children. Crossnore's environment supports cutting-edge techniques to gain power over pain through education, art and soil therapy--restoring souls through soil. The Founders Fund grant would elevate our flourishing garden to a far-reaching food forest.

**Growing It Green in Paterson, NJ - Public School Rain Garden Project**

Proposed by: Garden Club of Madison, Zone IV  
Seconded by: Garden Club of Morristown, Zone IV

GC of Madison is sponsoring GSWA and Rutgers University to expand their transformational school rain garden program, established in Paterson, NJ in 2017. Through GSWA's hands-on environmental education programming, students are re-connected to nature through the planning, design and building of rain gardens as a solution to local stormwater runoff and water pollution issues. As students learn about the need to protect the lands and waters around them, a mindset of stewardship is created.

**CheerMobile: What Cheer Flower Farm on the Rhode**

Proposed by: Perennial Planters Garden Club, Zone II  
Seconded by: Newport Garden Club, Zone II

Flowers matter. What Cheer Flower Farm has turned abandoned factory land into an urban oasis, organically growing and giving away 30,000 flowers per year to hospitals, shelters, recovery centers, at-risk youth and seniors. The CheerMobile van will carry our educational programming including flower arranging and art classes to those who can't travel to us. Plus, we'll gather stems donated by florists, weddings and events, so we can give away thousands more flowers year-round.

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# Partners for Plants



Warm weather is just around the river bend! So please join us on the banks of the James at Chapel Island for our next **Partners for Plants workday, March 23 from 1-3pm.**

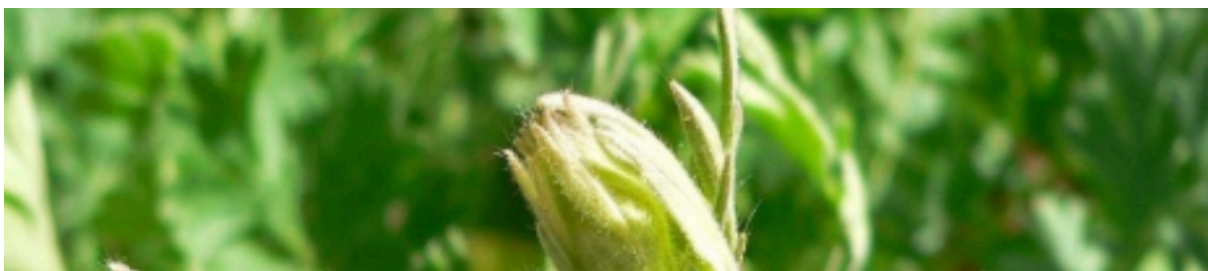
We will meet at the parking lot at Great Shiplock Park at the intersection of Dock and Pear Street. Wear long pants and long sleeves, bring clippers and join us in river revelry while we remove invasive plants! Come on ladies let's get out there!

February 23 is the beginning of National Species Awareness Week; learn more here: <https://jamesriverpark.org/free-a-tree/>

Kelly and Freddie

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## GCA FREEMAN MEDAL







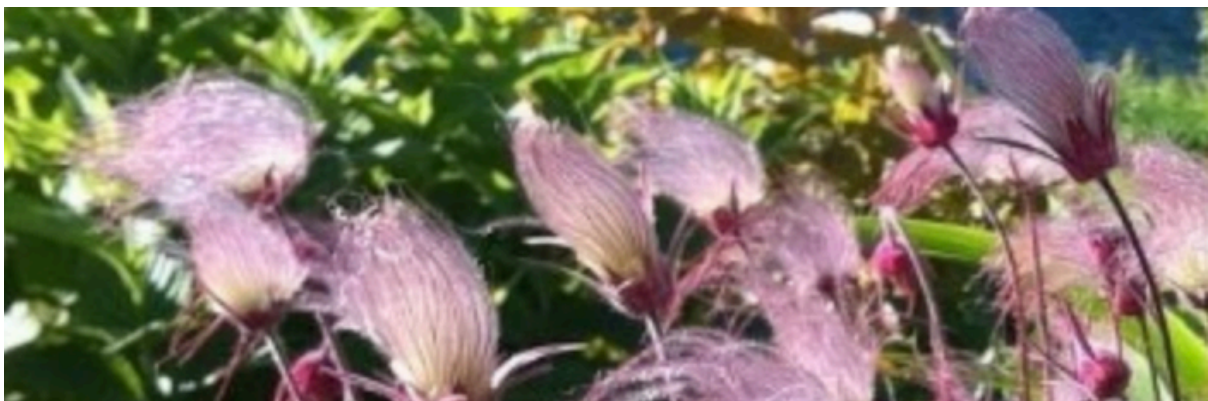
### **Geum triflorum, A Stellar North American Native Plant**

Geum triflorum, commonly known as prairie smoke, has been named the 2020 Plant of the Year by The Garden Club of America (GCA). Annually, the GCA identifies a stellar North American native plant to receive [The Montine McDaniel Freeman Medal: Plant of the Year.](#)

Native plants are important because they adapt to local environmental conditions. They require far less water, saving time, and money. Plus, native plants provide vital habitat for birds and many other species of wildlife.

Prairie smoke, an exquisite herbaceous perennial, is an early bloomer on prairies and a great nectar source for native long-tongued bees and butterflies, as well as native bumblebees and sweat bees. Although prairie smoke is being challenged by taller, non-native plants in its native mesic prairie sites, it is readily adaptable to many other areas. Tolerant of poor soil, moderate drought, heat, and humidity, Geum triflorum can be grown in sun or partial shade and is suitable for cottage gardens, prairies, meadows, and perennial beds. It is not favored by deer or burrowing animals. Geum triflorum is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 3-7.

This medal was established in 1995 to highlight underutilized, but highly worthy, native trees, shrubs, groundcovers, vines, and perennials. The goal is to draw attention to select native plants, encourage their use in the landscape, and make them familiar to gardeners and more available in nurseries. The annual medal selection is carried out by a group of highly respected horticulturists from across the country. Woody and herbaceous plants are nominated in alternate years. The 2020 winners were selected from 23 herbaceous plants nominated by members of GCA clubs.



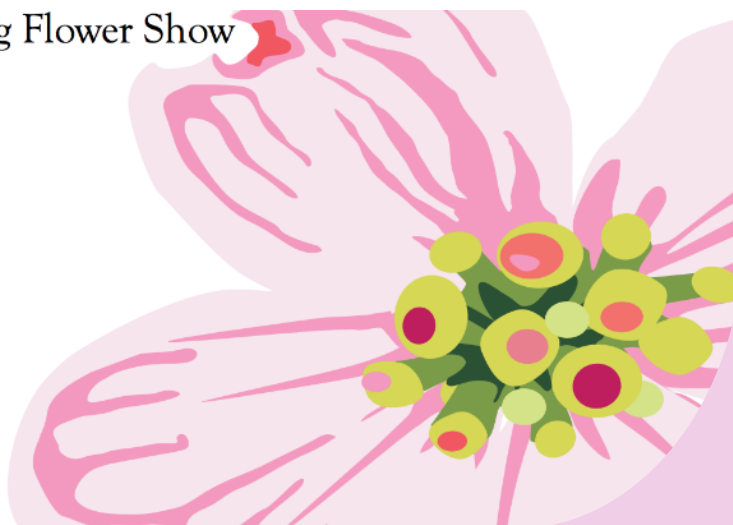


20/20 Vision,  
Vistas and Views



## A GCA Annual Meeting Flower Show

Presented by Zone VII  
May 4 - 6, 2020



### SAVE THE DATE!

It's time to start thinking about the GCA 2020 Annual Meeting & Flower Show - 20/20 Vision, Vistas and Views!! May 3-6, 2020 in Asheville, NC. We are hoping for a fantastic showing from our Club and we need everyone's support and help. It's going to be so much fun to be part of this event! You will be hearing much more from us in the coming months and we will be calling on many of you for contributions. Note: you do not need to worry about getting your entries to Asheville.

Please go to [https://www.gcamerica.org/index.cfm/members:main.getprotectedfile?calendarschedule/GCA2020FS\\_Schedule%20-%209.5.19.pdf](https://www.gcamerica.org/index.cfm/members:main.getprotectedfile?calendarschedule/GCA2020FS_Schedule%20-%209.5.19.pdf) for detailed information and a schedule of horticulture classes. We will be passing around "sign-ups" and key cards at the March meeting and contacting various members to solicit support!

Missy Ryan and Rita Ryan will be collecting your horticulture on Saturday, May 2, 2020.

## GCA FLORAL DESIGN TIPS OF THE MONTH

### VALENTINE'S DAY IS ALMOST HERE

...and with it comes a whopping 196 million long stem red roses.

In honor of all those flowers, we thought you might enjoy learning these ten fun rose facts...

- 1) Many people have been passionate about roses, but none more so than Cleopatra. It is said that the floors of her palace were carpeted with rose petals
- 2) 1,000 years old, that's the age of the world's oldest living rose. Today, it flourishes on the wall of the Hildesheim Cathedral in Germany.
- 3) The largest rose bush resides in Tombstone, Arizona. It measures nearly 6 feet in diameter and forms a canopy large enough to shelter a crowd of 150 people. In full bloom this rose is adorned with more than 200,000 white blooms.



4) Throughout history roses were thought to have mysterious powers. Napoleon gave them to his officers to cure lead poisoning caused by bullet wounds.

5) Roses have been out of this world. In 2002 a miniature rose, "Overnight Scentsation", journeyed into space to test the effects of low gravity on the sense of smell.

6) While standing in the famous White House Rose Garden, President Reagan officially made the rose the national flower emblem of the United States.

7) The red rose has been a token of love and passion for thousands of years. In Greek and Roman mythology, the red roses is linked to and loved by both Aphrodite and Venus, the Goddesses of Love. Affluent Roman women even used rose petals like currency.

8) Botanically speaking, roses don't really have thorns, they have prickles. Thorns have deep roots in a plants' stem, but prickles attach at the surface and are more easily removed.

9) According to Victorian flower dictionaries a rose's color determines its meaning. Red signifies "love," pink means "grace," peach signals "modesty," white denotes "purity" and orange implies "fascination."

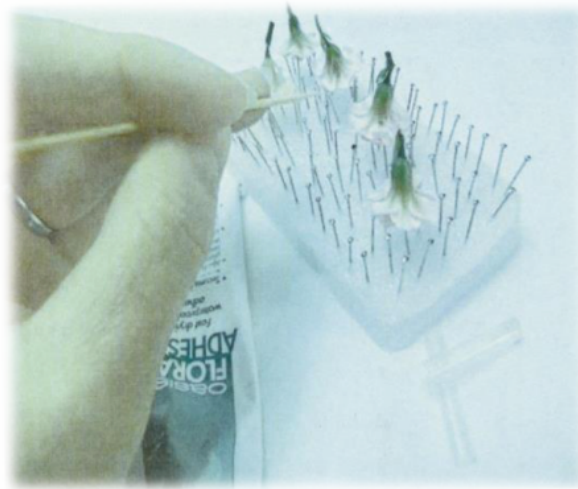
10) And last but not least, in case you are the fortunate recipient of roses this Valentine's, here's a recipe to prolong their beauty: *Prepare a **Sugar-Clorox Mix** by putting one-half cup granulated sugar and two teaspoons of Clorox in a two-gallon pail of warm (not hot) water. Add this to your vase and enjoy.*

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S FROM THE FLORAL DESIGN COMMITTEE**

## Botanical Arts Tip of the Month



### A SECOND SET OF HANDS



#### Make creating Botanical Arts easier.

Try using a foam pin holder as a paint/nail polish and/or glue drying rack. Pull out a few pins and place the delicate flowers or dried plant material upside down on the pinheads. This will keep them steady while you apply paint or glue. Let them sit there while you wait a few seconds for the glue to become tacky or a few minutes while you wait for the paint or nail polish to dry.

Note: When painting dried plant material, do the face side first. This can be done one of several ways:

- holding the item
- tacking it with a UGLU dot or a bit of Elmer's White Glue on a cardboard sheet
- placing the pin point into the plant material and holding the pin as you work *OR*
- cradling the plant material, fresh or dry, between pins on the pin holder

pin holder.



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

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