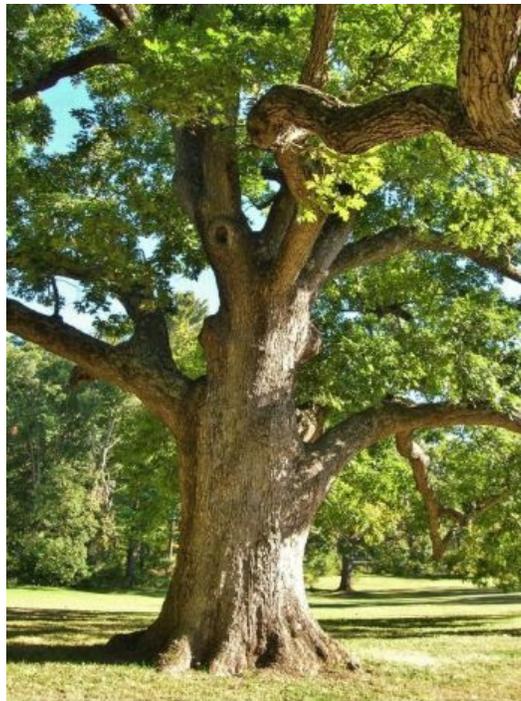


Tuckahoe Garden Club

Fresh Cuts From Ellen



A stately white oak (source: Virginia Cooperative Extension)

Our Legacy

This summer, while reviewing the TGC history with our club historian, Susan Ewing, I discovered a historical submission from 2016. It read,

Tuckahoe Garden Club has had a long history of planting trees. In 1932, mindful of George Washington's second centennial birthday, members planted 13 strong young elms along a bare block of Grove Avenue, one elm for each original state.

We have an opportunity to leave another legacy. As we near our club's centennial in 2028, we are ready to embark on another significant project: planting 100 native trees in public spaces in the Richmond region. We kick-started this project in 2024 by planting five Virginia White Oaks, *Quercus alba*, in the Gold Star Oak Grove at the Virginia War Memorial. We continued in 2025 with the installation of twelve native trees at three Capital Trees locations, bringing the total number of trees installed to 17. Our trees will have commemorative plaques placed on them so we can celebrate and memorialize the donation. Just 83 more to go!

At our October membership meeting on October 21, Kelly Armstrong and Jennifer Sisk will present how we will pursue the installation of those remaining 83 trees.

Although we can't count on planting 83 more *Quercus alba* due to available conditions at partner planting locations, trying to plant the maximum number of the species is a worthy

goal, for the mighty oak received this quote by Dr. Michael Dirr in his book [Hardy Trees and Shrubs](#): "A standard by which all other oaks are measured."

In this issue...

- October Membership Meeting
- Membership Update: Voting Procedures
- Flower Hour
- November Membership Meeting
- Holiday Workshop and Sale
- Dues Reminder
- Conservation News
- GCV & TGC Photography Opportunities
- Shalom Farms Workday Report
- Updates to our Website
- GCV: Cultivating Conversations
- September Meeting Mini Fine Arts and Flowers Exhibit Photos
- Daffodil Download: Member News
- Mark Your Calendars

October Membership Meeting

(no exhibits)

Tuesday, October 21
11:45 to 1:00 pm
Grace Baptist Church
4200 Dover Road in Windsor Farms

Program: How to make a show-stopper orchid arrangement with Mary Brooks Jamison of Fiorella Floral Studio. Also, Kelly Armstrong and Jennifer Sisk will roll out our Centennial Tree Project with specifics on how you can help us reach our goal of planting 100 native trees on public property in the Richmond region.

Please note: You will receive an Evite for this meeting with ordering instructions for your complimentary boxed lunch.

Membership Update: New Members

New Member nomination forms, FAQ's and voting information can be found on the [TGC website](#)

Timeline:

- Friday, October 24th - candidate proposal forms due
- Friday, November 7th - voting opens
- Friday, November 14th - voting closes
- Wednesday, November 19th - TGC meeting, new members announced

Please note: All voting will be online.

Questions about proposing new members? Email or call Betsy Carney - betscarney@gmail.com/804-405-8858

Flower Hour

Wednesday, October 15th
6-8:00 pm (program will start at 6:15)
Jennifer Sisk's house

Thank you for the additions to our Flower Hour invitation list! Evites have been sent.

The event is now open to both legacies and any other young women with a genuine

interest in learning more about the Tuckahoe Garden Club. Both legacy and non-legacy guests require a member to sponsor them. Each member may only sponsor one non-legacy guest. Sponsors will be billed for attendance. The cost for this event is \$45.

Please note that due to the varying activities and necessary supplies, each Flower Hour event will vary in cost.

If any members would like to join Flower Hour to further our mission of cultivating potential new members and addressing any questions about the Tuckahoe Garden Club, please contact Betsy Carney at betscarney@gmail.com

November Membership Meeting

featuring Dr. Aruni Bhatnagar

Members, this is a Big Deal!!

Renowned researcher
Dr. Aruni Bhatnagar
Will present

ARE TREES THE BEST MEDICINE FOR HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS?

Wednesday, November 19, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Science Museum of Virginia

Dr. Bhatnagar will discuss his research on "The Natural Environment and Human Health."

Dr. Bhatnagar leads the Green Heart Louisville health research initiative. After planting over 8,000 trees and shrubs, his team has collected detailed health data from nearly 500 residents since 2018. The 15-million-dollar project includes state, local and federal agencies, several non-profits and universities and over 50 researchers. They are looking at how trees affect air pollution, sleep, stress and anxiety, blood pressure and cardio health.

Dr. Bhatnagar, a featured speaker at the 2023 World Forum on Urban Forests, is Professor of Medicine and Distinguished University Scholar at the University of Louisville. Working with collaborators around the world, he spearheaded the development of the new field of Environmental Cardiology which links the risk of heart disease to natural, social and personal environments.

We are honored to host Dr. Bhatnagar. Please mark your calendars to attend. It is an "Exhibit Meeting" so check your Green Book for exhibits you can enter.

Holiday Workshop and Sale

SAVE THE DATES!

CHRISTMAS GARLAND WORKSHOP
Wednesday, December 3
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at 10:00 am

Join the talented Agnes Stillfried ([VAWREATHMAKER on Etsy](#)) to make a 36-inch garland using beautiful greens, fresh foraged materials, and dried fruits that she provides.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the meeting on October 21st, or you can sign up on the pre-sale form, which will be released in mid-October. The workshop is limited to 30 participants, so please reserve your spot. Workshop cost is \$40. You take home your ready-made centerpiece or mantle garland.



HOLIDAY PARTY AND SALE
Thursday, December 4
at the home of Anne Kempe
[6615 Three Chopt Road](#)
at 11:00 am

We will offer lots of beautiful greens and special creations for the holidays.

We encourage each member to contribute one creative or delicious item to the sale, a Tuckahoe tradition.

We are excited to be offering several NEW things on the presale, including oyster shell trees, tapered glass jug jars, birch logs with vials (with a nod to Lilee Fell in the Hamptons), and NEW food items, to name a few. We were able to get some of the 3-vial 12-inch glass vases that sold out last year, so remember to preorder if you want more this year! They are limited! We are also having our favorite Lucite boxes. The sale will feature several new and special vendors, including Melissa Carey of The Christmas Cabinet, which is an Advent Calendar that creates a Nativity scene; Good Girl Millie Cards; Suzy Brockman, offering handcrafted soaps, scents, and skincare; Hannah Van Essendelft, with pencil drawings; Peggy Bittler of Notti Toffee Company; and Katie Carline, showcasing gorgeous paper flowers. And back by popular demand-Janet Gregg!!! You will be able to preorder our Tuckahoe Garden Club pendant.

Presale forms will be available in mid-October and are due back by November 1st.

Kathy, Martha, Patricia, Carey, Beverly, Frances, Terrell, Meredith, and Jennifer
Your Holiday Sale crew

Dues Reminder

If you haven't had a chance to pay your dues, please do so as soon as possible. Dues notices were emailed on 9.8.2025.

If you are unsure of what you owe, please check the website.

As a reminder, the payment options are as follows:

1. Pay online (for no charge) with the Zelle feature from your bank. Use tuckahogctreasurer@gmail.com to direct the payment to our account.
2. Log on to Tuckahogardenclub.com/membership (Password is Daffodil). Click on Membership, then Pay Dues Online. Click on the "Active Dues" category to pay your dues online with a credit card.

3. Make check payable to The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton or TGC, and mail payment to Rita Ryan, Assistant Treasurer, at [8904 Highfield Road, Richmond, VA 23229](#).

Thank you for your prompt payment!
Bonnie Cricchi

Conservation News

Capital Trees is excited to accept the donation of our NexTrex bench. We'll let you know once it's in place so you can see how our efforts—saving 1,000 pounds of plastic—have been transformed into something both tangible and truly useful.

The Virginia Home ([1101 Hampton Street](#)) is doing its own NexTrex challenge. Contact Ellen Buoyer or Fran McDermott for more information.

Hidden Costs of AI

Two Articles shared by Betty Jenkins

AI and Data Centers

From AP News

I encourage you to read this alarming article about the hidden costs of AI, including social media that we ALL use. This is something we should be aware of as we increasingly rely on AI and peruse social media. Also note the suggested ways we can help to reduce the natural resources these data centers pillage from our environment. Please read [here](#).

Reduce Lights at Night to Save Migrating Birds

From Wild Birds Unlimited of Henrico, VA

Every spring and fall, billions of birds migrate across North America, navigating mostly under the cover of darkness. Artificial lights pose a serious threat, attracting and disorienting the birds, leading to dangerous collisions with buildings. The solution is simple: Flip the switch, and turn off the lights.

By reducing unnecessary lighting, the growing international "Lights Out" movement is making an impact, saving birds while conserving energy and lowering costs.

As fall migration gets underway, here are some ways you can keep the skies darker at night and help birds stay out of harm's way:

- Turn off non-essential lights from 11 PM until 6 AM during critical migration periods.
- Turn off or dim lobby and atrium lights.
- Turn off or dim interior home lighting or draw blinds to prevent light escaping.
- Turn off decorative landscape lighting.
- Turn off lights before leaving the home or office.
- Be sure outside lights are aimed down and well shielded.
- Install motion sensors on outside lights to reduce use.

Birds have begun their fall migration. Bright lights at night are a significant danger to migrating birds, causing disorientation, and sometimes building collisions. Birds navigate by the moon and stars, and bright city lights or sky-glow can attract them, leading to energy-draining circling, exhausted birds, and ultimately deadly collisions with illuminated structures. Let's help our migrating birds:

- Turn off non-essential lights from 11pm-6am
- Turn off decorative landscape lighting.
- Choose landscaping lights that are aimed down and are shielded.
- Turn off your indoor house lights when leaving.
- Install motion sensors on outside lights to reduce use.

GCV & TGC Photography Opportunities

[GCV Photography Autumn Challenge 2025](#)

Class I: Critters

- Non-domesticated
- Color

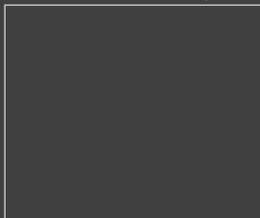
A portrait in an outdoor setting of one or more wildlife preparing for the changing of the seasons.

Class II: Autumn Hauntings

- No people, please
- Black and white

Be it tombstone, statue or mausoleum, capture the architectural aspects in black and white detail.

Portrait photography – a genre of photography where the photograph concentrates on the subject and often tells a story about the subject.



*Photo by Georgiana Watt, Blue Ribbon, Lily Show 2025
Fauquier and Loudon Garden Club*

Black and White photography – a photography technique where the photographic image is totally in black and white.

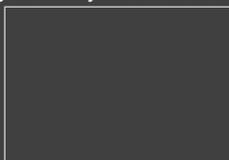


Photo by Susan Morris, Martinsville Garden Club

GVC PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDELINES

1. Who can enter: The Photography Division is open to all members of the Garden Club of Virginia.

2. Class Entry:

Members may submit one photograph per class.

3. Photograph:

Digital images, sent by email to photography@gcvirginia.org, are required for each class and are due no later than Dec. 5th. Follow these steps to send in digital images:

(a) Rename your photo file as follows: District #_ Class #_Your Last Name_First Initial
(e.g. D#_Class 1_Smith_P.)

(b) Make sure your image is between 2 and 6 MB in size and attach the image as "actual size".

Check again before sending to ensure the image size has not been reduced to below 2 MB;

(c) Make the subject line of your email Autumn Challenge-District-Class (add class number);

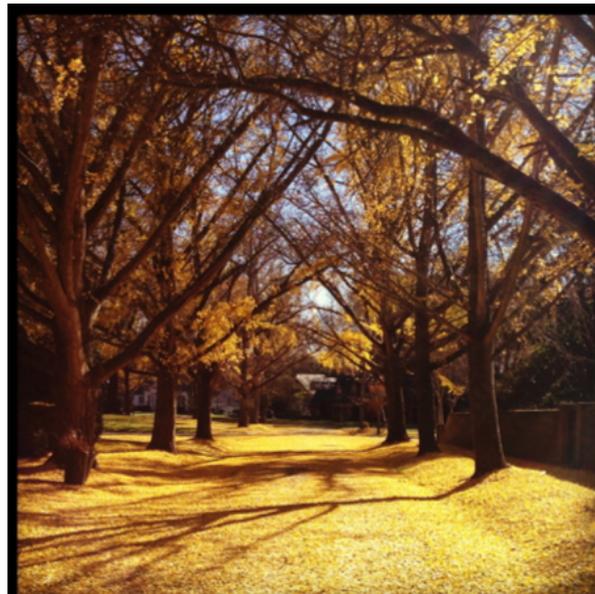
(d) Email your image to photography@gcvirginia.org.

(e) Include your district, class, and name in the body of the email.

4. Photograph must be exhibitor's work: Each photograph must be the work of the exhibitor. All editing must be the work of the exhibitor. This includes enhancement for color or clarity, removal of a part of the image, combining images, or distorting the original subject.

5. Awards: Awards will be given for first, second and third place in each class. Honorable mention will be at the discretion of the judges. In addition, "special awards" will be given for Best in Show. Judging will be based on the following criteria:

- Creativity 25
- Composition 25
- Technical Skills 20
- Conformance/Interpretation 20
- Distinction 10



Our November Photo Exhibits classes, held at our November 19 meeting, are all about trees! Here are two tips for capturing some great shots of your favorite trees and fall foliage.

1. Shoot during the “Golden Hours” close to sunrise and sunset
2. Fog, mist, and even rain can make a photo more interesting

Have a look at this great [tutorial](#) I found online...and Happy Shooting!! I can't wait to see your pictures!

Tricia

Shalom Farms Workday Report

We had a wonderful sunny morning at Shalom Farms in the heart of Northside in Richmond on October 24th. This second location of Shalom Farms is on 5 acres of land full of produce and flowers with a pavilion. We had an hour tour of the gardens and learned about the produce they distribute through food access partners and their education programs with schools and other outreach programs. Our taste buds were stimulated with numerous surprise plants. We put our garden skills to use picking peppers and okra! It was a great and fun day in the garden!

Terrell Harrigan

Updates on Our Website

Need gardening and horticulture tips? You'll find it [here](#) on our website.

Would you like to see sample exhibit cards and receive tips for exhibiting? You'll find it [right here](#).

Looking for the Fun with Herbs program at our May 2025 Flower Hour? [Right here](#).

It's not too early to think about getting your garden ready for spring, with our own Sue Thompson and Abbie Wharton [right here](#).

GCV: Cultivating Conversations

Each month, GCV members gather to learn new things, share ideas, and connect with fellow members from across the commonwealth. Topics cover a broad range of interests, including artistic design, conservation, horticulture, photography, and restoration.

Participants will have the chance to participate in small group discussions and a Q&A session with the presenters.

Sessions are offered monthly, September through May.

[Cultivating Conversations: Fabulous, Festive Fall Container Gardening](#)

October 13, 2025 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

[Register here](#) to join GCV Horticulture Committee Chairman Patsy Smith as she gives us some pointers on composing fabulous and festive fall container gardens!

She will stay on after the presentation for a Q&A session.

September Meeting Mini Fine Arts and Flowers Exhibit

Many thanks go to all who participated in the exhibit at our membership meeting. These photos will remind you of the talent on display that day by our artists and floral designers, listed below each photo.



Artist: Lisa Brennan, Floral Designer: Betsy Carney



Artist: Libby Robertson, Floral Designer: Jennifer Rector





Artist: Kay Pangraze, Floral Designer: Patricia Hunter



Artist: Scottie Slater, Floral Designer: Penny Peebles



Artist: Chris Shands, Floral Designer: Peyton Wells

All other exhibit results will be posted on the website after the minutes from the September meeting are approved.

Photo credit: Tricia Sauer

Daffodil Download

(Launch of a Member News Section!)

In a recent Board Meeting, several of us were catching up from our summer break. It felt good to learn a little more about each other through sharing recent events in our lives, whether it was a recent adventure, a celebration, or a loss. We wanted to invite all our members to our chat, so we decided to launch a new section of the newsletter, which we are calling "Daffodil Download." In a way, we are merging last year's theme, 'Getting to Know You,' with this year's theme, 'Try Something New.' We want to continue to get to know each other, but that will only work if you share:)

If you have news you would like to share with our members, submit it to [Jennifer Wilkins](#), newsletter editor. Please do not submit news on behalf of others, and no advertisements. Our purpose is to cheer for each other during joyous times and support each other in times of sorrow.

- Pat Gallagher, the mother of Kelly Armstrong, passed on August 17th. She will be long remembered for her kindness, patience, and love for her children and grandchildren. A small service will be held on October 11th in Chapel Hill, NC.
- Ellen Buoyer's son, John Buoyer, married Carling Crawford on September 13 in Dallas, Texas, in a ceremony at Highland Park United Methodist Church. The couple will reside in Austin.
- Carter Hunter, daughter of Patricia Hunter, was married on September 13, 2025, in Charlottesville, Virginia. The wedding was held at Farmington Country Club and was an evening full of love, dancing, and, of course, flowers!
- Jennifer Wilkins dropped off her oldest daughter, Mary, at JMU in mid-August and got to see her again at the end of September for Family Weekend. Despite the rainy game day, Mary was all smiles. Go DUKES!

Mark Your Calendars

Tuesday, October 21

Membership Meeting, Power Lunch format.
Grace Baptist Church
11:45 to 1:00

Wednesday, November 19

Membership Meeting
Featuring guest speaker Dr. Aruni Bhatnagar from the Green Heart Louisville Project
Science Museum of Virginia
9:30 a.m. coffee
10:00 a.m. program

Wednesday, December 3

Christmas Greens Garland Workshop featuring Agnes Stillfried
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
10:00 a.m.

Thursday, December 4

Holiday Party and Sale
Anne Kempe's home
11:00 a.m.

Member Support

Missing a meeting? Please email Fran McDermott before the meeting: fbmcder@aol.com

Have a great picture for the newsletter or website? Send to:

tuckahogardenclub@gmail.com

Need to send an email to the Membership? Send a draft to:

Stephanie Lansing and Ellen Buoyer:

stephanielansing@gmail.com

5buoyers@gmail.com

Your address, email or phone number changed? Send changes to

Fran McDermott: fbmcderr@aol.com

Want to share photos?

If you like to take photos at our club events, please share them. We will use them in our newsletter, Instagram account and in various reports we send to GCV and GCA. Here's the simple process:

Email photos to tuckahogardenclub@gmail.com. Please identify the subjects in the photo and event where it was taken.

Tell us what you think about this newsletter format and content!

Email Jennifer Wilkins jennyrw99@gmail.com with any comments, questions or concerns.

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