

## Tuckahoe Garden Club Monthly Board Reports January

Dear Officers and Standing Committee Members,  
Please submit your monthly report to the Board in the Google form below. Keep in mind your report should be concise- sharing essential information, dates, links to further information and any action items that should be highlighted- and presented in a bullet-format if possible. If you have no report for the month, please note "NO REPORT". Thank you all!

### OFFICERS

**First VP/Kelly Armstrong**

The Finance Committee met in December to discuss how the Endowment Account is currently managed. The proposed changes are below:

- Change the name of "Endowment Account" to "TGC Community Engagement Account", reflecting the nature and origin of the account.
- Redefine spendable funds to be 4% of the trailing 12 quarter balance of accounts (as opposed to current definition of income received through dividends and capital gains)
- Advise Davenport to reinvest dividends in the investment accounts.
- Track accumulated principal donated on a quarterly basis, which is considered not spendable but invested for future gifts. Current principal balance is \$47,280. Total endowment balance was \$70,419 as of Nov 2020.
- Attached is a pdf with more details from our meeting:  
[https://www.icloud.com/pages/oMURQSYs7t5XWwSfHWapCpS6g#TGC\\_Finance\\_Meeting\\_Notes\\_11%2F20%2F20](https://www.icloud.com/pages/oMURQSYs7t5XWwSfHWapCpS6g#TGC_Finance_Meeting_Notes_11%2F20%2F20)

**\*\*Note that these revisions were voted on and APPROVED by the Board at the 1/11/202 Board Meeting as written below:**

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- **Redefine spendable funds to be 4% of the trailing 12 quarter balance of accounts**
- **Advise Davenport to reinvest dividends in the investment accounts**
- **Track accumulated principal donated on a quarterly basis, which is considered not spendable but invested for future gifts.**

**Second VP/Database** /Melinda Smith

All new member information has been added to the GCV and GCA websites

**Corresponding Secretary**/Charlotte Clarkson

**No report**

**Communications Director**/Molly Revere

no report from communications standpoint

**Treasurer**/Karen Gilmore

**No report.**

### **STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Communications**/Kate Christner and Lisa Burlee

**Community Projects and Long Range Plan**/Kate O'Hagan

Sara Cann and Kate O'Hagan discussed the goals and status of the TGC Community Partners Committee and Gifts Committee, specifically as it relates to the special gift this year to an organization directly effected by the COVID pandemic over the past 10 months. Sara mentioned that the Gifts Committee plans to meet soon and it was suggested to her, by Kelly Armstrong and Jennifer Sisk, that the two Committees share their ideas since both focus on providing assistance and relief to communities in need.

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Kate shared the information that was exchanged at the October 28th meeting including Jennifer Sisk, Kelly Armstrong, Abbie Wharton, Barrie Edlich and Kate O'Hagan. The organizations identified as potential community partners at the small group meeting include: Caritas, Shalom Farm, BeFriend and ReLeaf. Sara mentioned that Caritas and Shalom Farm were also discussed by the Gifts committee as possible recipients of the special gift this year (excess funds available due to program cancellations since March, 2020). Kate and Sara agreed that a community partner relationship could be a direct offshoot of the COVID relief gift. Kate will circle back with Community Partners Committee next week to restart the important conversations related to identifying the needs of organizations and ways TGC can help.

### **Conservation/**Ellen Buoyer

Our webpage has launched! Please check it out and use it as the conservation resource we intend it to be!

Remember to follow us on Instagram: @TheGreenCrusaders

### **GCV Legislative Day/ Conservation Lobby Day**

There will be no in-person Assembly in January 2021; therefore, we are to be digital advocates. The General Assembly convenes January 13.

#### Why Advocacy Matters

- Much money in politics
- Private sector special interests dominate campaign donations
- It's a competition between the Public (volunteer or nonprofit) vs Contract Lobbyists (paid full-time for very specific interest) to get time with their legislators. Lobbyists will always get their calls answered by politicians to whom they donated.
- Dominion Energy is a top ten donor to both parties and they will be at the table, influencing the process.
- Majority of members' backgrounds represent big business, PR firms, financial backgrounds; only 12 of current legislators are former educators, 6 from nonprofit--can argue they have a connection to the issues more.
- Civic engagement starts at the ballot box

### **GCV Legislative Day is January 21st.**

#### **First, a little background....**

GCV partners with two organizations on conservation efforts. First is the **Virginia Conservation Network** or VCN ( <http://www.vcnva.org/> ) which represents over 125 conservation organizations and focuses attention on the same four areas: Clean Water, Climate Change, Clean Energy and Land Use. These policy agendas combined are called "Our Common Agenda" and provide practical, state-level policy solutions for common conservation goals. GCV representation on the VCN board is Carol Carter, Albemarle GC member.

The second group GCV affiliates with is **Virginia Forever** (<https://virginiaforever.org/about-us/>) which is a consortium of businesses, conservation leaders, and outdoor enthusiasts. They focus entirely on the funding side of environmental programs for improving water quality and land conservation with the goal of bringing different

entities together to find common ground on environmental spending. GCV representation on this board is Allison Clock.

We partner actively with Virginia Conservation Network (VCN).

Every year, VCN's 150+ environmental organizations come together to ensure a strong conservation presence is felt during the legislative session. Volunteer advocates join professional staff to meet with state legislators and encourage them to support strong conservation policy. **This is known as Conservation Lobby Day, or what we sometimes call GCV Legislative Day.**

Of course, this year, Lobby Day is going virtual. There will be guest speakers and legislators in the morning followed by fifteen-minute Zoom meetings with each participant's Delegate and Senator. We will conclude with an update on the redistricting process in Virginia.

This year's lobby day will cover:

- Tackling climate pollution from transportation;
- Securing funding for our natural resources in order to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, protect our parks and natural landscapes & enhance our environmental agencies;
- Increasing utility accountability while meeting our clean energy goals;
- Improving environmental justice in the Commonwealth,
- And more!

Register to attend if you wish to be a conservation advocate this year (it's free):

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-conservation-lobby-day-registration-132830510633>

Lastly, GCV has "position papers" which are formal, detailed statements showing what, where and why GCV supports a particular conservation issue. Currently, we do not have the 2021 legislative session position papers but will inform the club of them when we do. **One particular project which GCV is adopting this year is [Save River Farm](#).**

In summary, this tract of undisturbed land was originally a parcel of George Washington's and it is up for sale. GCV is partnering with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust to help purchase the land to save it from development.

**Finance**/Karen Gilmore and Kelly Armstrong

**Governance**/Lynn Jacob

After conferencing with the Finance and Membership Committees we are continuing to finalize a first draft of recommended changes to the bylaws for review by the Board.

**Gifts/Sara Cann**

The Gifts Committee has contacted all of last year's recipients of our gifts to find out their financial status as a result of Covid-19. Most the organization's revenues have been impacted significantly, as expected, through the loss of events and large donors. They have also had to make staff cuts. Some received PPP funds but that wasn't enough. This is just the beginning of our conversations about gifts for this most unusual year.

Kate O'Hagan (chair of the Community Projects and Long Range Plans) and I have also talked to discuss the goals and status of both committees. We will be meeting with Jennifer and Kelly to further the discussion of how the two committees can work together to help our community.

**Fundraising**

Betsy Carney (Holiday)

Despite the circumstances, the Holiday sale happened! It was chilly but the sun was out and we managed to visit if only for a short time, and spread some holiday cheer in Jennifer's driveway. Although we did not raise as much as in years past we're counting the sale as a success. All of the brainstorming, reorganizing, and plan adjusting left us with fantastic ideas for next year. (Crepe truck!) Our committee will be ready to go come December 2021!

Patricia Hunter (Spring)

Kathy Watson and I are working to get a final profit from the Peony sale. At this moment it seems to be close to \$1100.00. We will have a firm number soon. We are happy with the results and look forward to seeing many Peony blooms in the future! Also, plans are in the works for The Spring Sale which will be held in Liza Carden's beautiful yard. Our hope is to offer many old favorites and some fun new items for our yards. The committee will be meeting soon. The date of the sale is Wednesday April 14 , 2021. Hopefully, it will be a bright spot and something to look forward to for our members and friends.

**Membership/Libby Robertson/ Martha Moore/ Stephanie Lansing**

All 7 New members accepted their spots in December so to confirm our new members are Caroline Marvel, Megan Matthews, Fran McDermott, Maria Reed, Arpie Starke , Sara Van Der Hyde and Jennifer Wilkins. All of the new members received their green books the week of the Holiday Sale pickup at Jennifers.

We have rescheduled our orientation for New Members from January 13 to February 10th at 11:00 am , hopefully at Tuckahoe Plantation . We felt like the covid surge was too much right now after the holidays. We are also moving our Flower Hour event which was originally

scheduled for Wednesday, February 10th at Lynn Brooke's to Thursday, March 18th still at Lynn's house at 5:30. We will send the Flower Hour gals an email next week to notify them. We have ordered some material ( free) from GCA to use for our orientation and will get some GCV materials as well.

We hope to get the new members to bring their laptops to the orientation and to sign onto the GCA and GCV websites , as well as the TGC website. We will be following up with the new members sponsors to make sure they follow up with the new members this spring and mentor the new members, in whatever format our meetings take!

Hopefully we will make their first year a fun experience, one way or another!

Martha, Libby and Stephanie

Thinking about Anne Page who had a big 80th birthday in December. Also thinking about Susie Benson and her husband who have had covid. Keep us posted of others who need well wishes and we will send cards.

Many of the sustainers emeritus and honorary members who got the amaryllis bulbs from Jennifer and crew signed from The Tuckahoe Garden Club on a lovely hand drawn note card really appreciated them. It was a special touch right when many people needed it. Great idea Jennifer!!! The bulbs had many blooms and lasted well.

### **Programs/RoseMarie Bundy**

Help!!

February-

It is becoming likely or certain (?) that our February 17th meeting at McKinnon and Harris will be cancelled. Please advise.

Are there any thoughts or ideas about a substitute?

Could we possibly have a staggered attendance in times or different days to keep our attendance numbers beneath the Governor's mandate?

Would we still have exhibits but make them virtual?

March-

I guess it is too early to tell if the March 31st field trip is also in jeopardy. Perhaps we could travel in cars for COVID reasons instead of by bus, if we get to go at all?

(The Daffodil Show that was to be on March 30th is already planned to be virtual.)

All ideas appreciated!

**Sustainer rep/Susie Benson**

**Garden Club of America/Kathy Watson**

(Flower Shows & Test Collection, Horticulture, Visiting Garden & Scholarship, Garden History & Design)- **information from these committees**

The GCA Annual Meeting will be held virtually May 10-12 and is open to all GCA members. Registration begins early April and an email will go out to all. You must register in order to receive the links to participate. The flower show will also be virtual and can be viewed by all. Registration for all classes of the show with the exception of Horticulture classes 1-19 ends on Friday, January 8, 2021. Registration for Horticulture classes 1-19 begins at 10 am EST on April 8 and virtual entries are due on April 9. The schedule and timeline can be viewed on the GCA website.

**Garden Club of Virginia/Meredith Lauter**

Happy New Year everyone!!

GCV Artistic Design Committee and Daffodil Day 2021

- **Daffodil Day 2021 is a VIRTUAL FLOWER SHOW**

- Registration opens February 1
- Exhibit images due March 15
- Daffodil Day opens April 1, 2021
- 2 Inter Club Classes (may be prepared by a team)
- 7 Individual Classes (two people may work together) including
  - Botanical Arts
  - Needle Arts
  - Pollinator Posies designer's choice
  - Challenge Class March 16 10-12 noon KV House
  - People's Choice Award
  - Mentor Award honoring **RoseMarie Bundy, Tuckahoe GC of Westhampton**

\* Daffodil Day Schedule at [www.gcvirginia.org/daffodilday](http://www.gcvirginia.org/daffodilday)

**\*Workshops Upcoming**

\* Botanical Arts

- \* Photographing Exhibits for a Virtual Flower Show
- \* Judging a Virtual Flower Show
- \* Modern Mass (new GCV floral design category)
- \* Flower arranging demonstrations - webinar/Zoom format - planning process proceeding

\* **GCV Judging Program**

- \* New definitions and flexibility
- \* Online Annual Judging Form to debut 2021
- \* 2 judging workshops held in 2020; Creative Line Mass & Mobile Kinetic
- \* 2 coming before Daffodil Day (judging a virtual flower show and photographing exhibits for a virtual flower show)

\* **GCV Judges by District** list to debut - great resource for clubs who need floral design judges at their club meetings

\* **Lilies in Bloom** - Rappahannock Valley Garden Club 2021

\* **GCV Aprons** - \$30 each at [www.gcvirginia.org](http://www.gcvirginia.org)

\* **Historic Garden Week**

\* **GCV Horticulture Award of Merit Deadline March 1st**

\* **More innovations** in the works

**Nominating/** Betty Jenkins Greetings, ladies. Very soon, the Nominating Committee will be formed with the task of coming up with the slate of officers for 2022-24. If I call you to ask you to serve on this committee, I hope you will say yes.