



Tuckahoe Garden Club

Fresh Cuts From Ellen

Call me crazy, but I love this time of year - as long as my house has power. The peace and quiet after the holidays allow me to huddle up to the fireplace, read, marvel at the bright cardinals in the snow, peruse my gardening resources, and daydream of a glorious garden.

As I write, it is February 4, and we are all wondering when the snow will melt. Before you know it, we'll be in the thick of the Spring Sale, anticipating our Cocktail Party, busy with Historic Garden Week, and just like that, we'll be hosting the Lily Show. While we have this quiet moment, I want to leave you with this thought.

“As the year unfolds, my hope is simple: may we each find moments of joy and inspiration in our gardens. May something unexpected bloom, new ideas take root, and may our friendships and shared purpose continue to grow.”

Mary Harman, President The Garden Club of America

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Membership Meeting & Workshop

February Membership Meeting Details

Wednesday, February 11
Virginia War Memorial

We are excited to host [Peggy Singlemann](#), a nationally and locally acclaimed horticulturist, for her presentation "How to Create a Cutting Garden."

Join us for refreshments at 5:30 pm, followed by the program at 6:00 pm, at the Virginia War Memorial. No exhibits this month.

Optional Workshop Details

Blooming Girls Art
Wednesday, February 25

Check out the flyer below to learn more about creating your own Blooming Girl art with [Theodora Miller](#), and look out for a Signup Genius to register!



Join local artist Theodora Miller at her studio for an evening of creative fun & fellowship as she shares her inspirational journey from brain injury to brushstrokes.

**Tuckahoe Garden Club
Blooming Girls
Workshop**

**February 25, 2026
5:30-8 p.m.**

Inspired by her Blooming Girls collection, Theodora will guide you to create your very own Blooming Girl masterpiece on the prettiest handmade paper. All supplies provided, and no art experience necessary.

Cost per person \$95
Maximum number 12:
STUDIO
2510 W. Main Street

Membership Update

Membership Survey Reminder

As we prepare for leadership and volunteer transitions at the May Annual Meeting, please complete this [survey](#) to indicate your interest in serving TGC. Taking a few moments to respond, using your Green Book if helpful, will assist Patricia as she assembles next year's club positions. Completing the survey does not guarantee a role.

Click [here](#) to complete the survey.

Membership Status Change

writing. Please send requests to Betsy Carney.

Centennial Tree Project Update

We have commitments for 70 trees: 53 from 29 club members and 17 given by the Club. We will make a second appeal at the February meeting and set up a table at the Spring Sale to make a final push.

Our goal is to secure commitment for 100 trees by the end of this garden club year. Then we can focus on planting the trees!

We have arranged field trips to visit our potential planting sites:

Montrose Heights Park - February 13th, 11:00 am
Maymont Wildlife Trail - February 17th at 1:00 pm
Monument Avenue - March 12th at 11:00 am

The [TGC website provides more information](#) on donating a Centennial Tree.

Founders Fund Finalists 2026

Submitted by RoseMarie Bundy

As a club, we will submit our vote for one of the three projects below to receive a \$40,000 Founders Fund grant. Summaries are listed below. [Please familiarize yourself with the projects and come ready to make an informed vote at our March Membership Meeting on the 18th.](#)

Appalachian Spring- Proposed by the Kanawha Garden Club, Zone VII

Charleston, West Virginia's Appalachian Spring Project envisions a historic transformation of its small community by planting 1,000 flowering trees along its streets, riverbanks, and parks over the course of two to three years. Charleston's "Capital Connector" project aims to transform the City's riverfront with the creation of a multi-use trail and river park. The addition of these flowering trees will be an important component of this project. A significant percentage of native plants is part of the planning. A nonprofit urban forestry firm has provided landscape design and a maintenance plan.

Garden of Hope-Proposed by New Orleans Town Gardeners

Walkers Imaginarium in New Orleans is a 15,000-square-foot child-enrichment center for patients and their families to enjoy while in the hospital. The Garden of Hope represents the outdoor component of the Imaginarium. There are three main components to the project:

-Building perimeter beds with a butterfly and pollinator garden focusing on native Louisiana plants.

-Reading and reflection garden- This garden will be positioned under existing live oaks that offer shade and cover. It will include pathways, seating, and a natural playground.

-Wraparound covered porch gardens on the second floor of the Imaginarium with opportunities for planter boxes for herbs and vegetables.

Florida)

The nonprofit organization Community Greening was launched in 2016 to plant trees in underserved areas. To date, 24,000 trees have been planted. Efforts continue with 20,000 trees growing in the Community Greening nursery in preparation for free giveaways and to fulfill agreements with municipalities for schoolyards and public spaces. The Founders Fund grant would be used for a motorized tree trolley, a storage container, and a watering truck.

*Full descriptions of these finalists can be found in the GCA Bulletin, Winter Edition or on the GCA website [here](#).

Spring Sale Update

DOES OUR WINTER WEATHER HAVE YOU YEARNING FOR SPRING?



SAVE THE DATE for our ANNUAL SPRING SALE

Wednesday, April 15th
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.*

Home of Jennifer Sisk
400 Harlan Circle

Our favorite [Garden Guru, Kent Russell](#), will be back, along with other specialty vendors.

And our Conservation Committee is hosting another mini "Green Garden Sale" featuring nearly new vases, containers, ceramic pots, and coffee table books—all donated by members. If you would like to donate, please contact [Chandler Klevana](#) (804-543-7067).

Thank you for supporting our sale!

More details to come!

*Please note time change from the Green Book

GCA Opportunity



THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA
Blooms & Beyond
FLORAL DESIGN VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Blooms and Beyond Virtual Conference

When: Tuesday, February 10

Where: Anywhere! It's Virtual

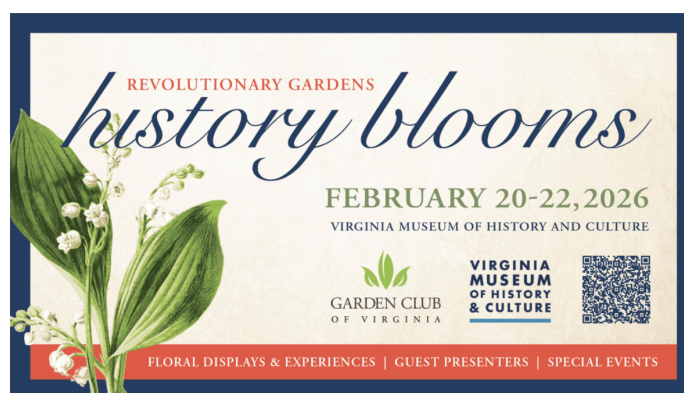
Register by: Monday, February 9

Why: Learn from the experts

Who: Any GCA member

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

GCV Opportunities



History Blooms

February 20-22

Virginia Museum of History and Culture

Our own [Renee Gardner](#) is Chair of the Artistic Design Committee for GCV and is instrumental in the floral design exhibits for this event.

[Renee and RoseMarie Bundy](#) will represent TGC with their floral design. Although the

register now to secure your spot.

Click [here](#) to register.

Daffodil Day

Wednesday, March 25

Virginia Wesleyan University, Virginia Beach

The schedule for Daffodil Day, featuring the theme "America the Beautiful," is both exciting and challenging (click the link [here](#)). Several club members will be attending the event and can transport your artistic or horticulture entries to the show.

Please Note: If you are new to Daffodil Day, [GCV will hold a workshop on Monday, February 23, at the Kent-Valentine House to help you prepare](#) to enter exhibits at the show. More information and registration are available on the [GVC website](#) under Member Resources.

Conservation

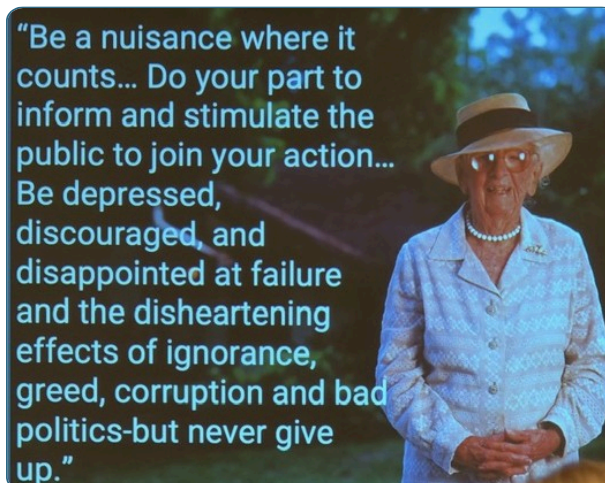
by Kelly Armstrong

[GCA Conservation Odyssey in the Everglades](#)

Do you know where the [largest U.S. conservation project is located](#)? It is in the 1.5 million acres that encompass the Florida Everglades and Florida Bay!

Despite major winter storms, GCA welcomed over 100 delegates from across the nation to South Florida to visit the third-largest National Park in the U.S. Over the past 26 years, significant restoration at a cost of about \$6 billion has vastly improved drainage, horticulture, and wildlife in South Florida. There is still more to do, and another \$14 billion is planned for expanding water reservoirs and education. With over 1,000 people moving to Florida each year, this project is critical to the state's supply of fresh water. This [Federal and State cooperative project](#) is a beacon of hope for all areas facing clean water challenges.

Everglades champion [Marjory Stoneman Douglas](#), who paved the way for preservation of the Everglades in the 1940s, stated it so simply: "There are no other Everglades in the world. They are, they have always been, one of the unique regions of the earth; remote, never wholly known."



Long-Term Planning and Community Engagement

Recognizing Betsy Fauntleroy

Our Community Engagement Committee is proud to announce that [Betsy Fauntleroy](#) has been recognized by the Anna Julia Cooper School with a Gabriel Award.



Betsy is a founding Board Member of AJCS, and has served the school for the last 17 years, building deep relationships with students, parents and staff. She is one of the school's biggest champions! Betsy's warm smile and gentle kindness make her a beloved member of their community. She has welcomed both staff and students to her farm in Goochland where students enjoy a taste of wide open spaces to run, play, swim, visit with her horses and "just breathe".

We are so proud of the impact you are making in our community Betsy!

Anatomy of a Flower Flash

By Ellen Buoyer

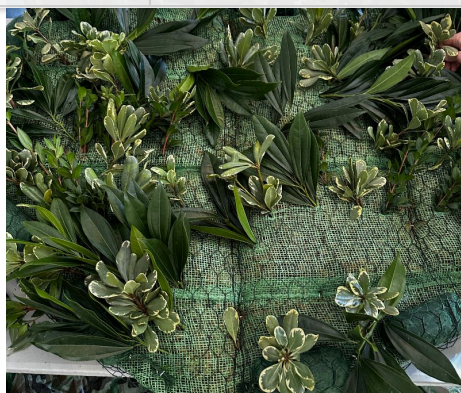
The Community Engagement Committee created a stunning Flower Flash installation for the memorial event for the late Bill Martin of The Valentine, honoring his legacy to the city of Richmond. Spearheaded by Jennifer Sisk, a few members gathered to brainstorm how the flash installation could work, especially given the frigid weather we've experienced. I wanted to share with you how the magic happened.



First, Mechanics

Jennifer got a piece of plywood cut into a heart, about 4' x 3'. Then we discussed mechanics; top of mind was to minimize the use of floral foam. Fran came up with the final solution, which was brilliant, using the bare minimum of foam for a design of this size.

The layers of mechanics are in order: a thick layer of wet sphagnum moss held in place with green burlap. A layer of chicken wire provided additional support. The rim was edged with an Oasis cylinder garland. Heavy-duty staples held all the elements in place.



[Greening the heart](#)

The moist and sturdy foundation allowed easy insertion of greens to cover the heart. When we were almost finished, we propped up the heart to see where the holes were.

[Flowering the Heart](#)

The last step was to fill the form with flowers in shades of pink, purple, and blue.



Many thanks to [Jennifer Sisk](#), [Fran McDermott](#), [Melinda Smith](#), [Mary Mason Foukal](#), and [Kate O'Hagan](#) for their contributions to this project.

Daffodil Download

News from our members

[Jennifer Sisk](#) welcomed a new grandson to the family. Ford Harlan Spector was born on January 21 to proud parents Charlotte and Scott Spector.

New feature of the newsletter: news from our members. If you have news you would like to share with our members, submit it to [Jennifer Wilkins](#), newsletter editor. We all want to know about the joys and sorrows in your family. Please do not submit news on behalf of others, and no advertisements.

Mark Your Calendars

Tuesday, February 10th
GCA Blooms and Beyond Virtual Conference
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 11
February Membership Meeting
Virginia War Memorial
621 South Belvidere Street, Richmond, VA 23220
5:30 p.m. Refreshments
6:00 p.m. Program

Wednesday, February 25
Optional Workshop - Blooming Girls Art
Studio
2510 West Main Street, Richmond, VA 23220
5:30 p.m. Refreshments
6:00 p.m. Workshop

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:
tuckahoegardenclub@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: fbmcder@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 tuckahoegardenclub@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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Past Issues

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and/or the Garden Club of Virginia who requested to receive it.

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