
Please read and enjoy this update from "The Tuckahoe News"

Tuckahoe Garden Club Newsletter Editor

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AM



Tuckahoe Garden Club

Fresh Cuts From Ellen

Our theme for this year was **Getting to Know You**, and everyone pitched in to make that happen. From Tablesapes to Freckled Flower Farm, Turkey Centerpieces, a Holiday Workshop and Sale, Dogwood Divas in Botanical Arts, Ready, Set, Garden!, Container Planting, a Spring Sale, Petals and Prosecco, and Historic Garden Week, we spent a glorious year getting to know each other.

Now it's time to focus on recruiting new members to join our ranks. **Betsy Carney**, 2nd Vice President for Membership, and her committee are working on timelines for applications, voting procedures, and appropriate recruitment messaging to set proper expectations with prospective members.

Our job is to talk up TGC membership with fellow gardening enthusiasts who would make excellent members. Think about those in our club who take active roles, follow-through on their responsibilities, are enthusiastic and bring a love of floral design, horticulture, photography, conservation and botanical arts to the table. Think of your circle of influence and look at them as TGC members: will they contribute, show up, stay current with the newsletter and emails, and have fun in the process? Most importantly, do they have the time for the garden club in their life right now? What's not to love about TGC, but we all know it's a lot of work and commitment at times. Make sure your prospects meet the criteria above.

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Conservation Focus for 2025-2026

Vote at May Meeting

This past year, we presented **four** conservation practices at membership meetings: Trees, Fashion Waste, Plastics, and Backyard Pollution Solutions. One of the topics, to be decided by you, will be our main topic deserving of greater detail and exploration during 2025-26. **Please read below and come prepared to vote at the May meeting.**

We have listed potential ideas for activities in each focus area to help you make your decision. If you cannot attend the meeting, please email Betty your vote.

Many thanks from your conservation devotees: Betty, Chandler, Renee M., and Lauren

CONSERVATION FOCUS OPTIONS for 2025-2026:

Trees (September 2024 meeting)

If members vote to learn more about trees next year, we could:

- Have a plant a tree or pollinator patch challenge- plant a tree or a new pollinator patch containing a tree and plants that will attract pollinators. This could be done within our club by members, or even in our community as a small project.
- We could further support the club's Centennial Tree Project, which launches in September. We could focus on planting trees in another area of RVA's urban area or at Habitat for Humanity.
- We can become ambassadors by promoting native tree plantings and saving the leaves, networking with neighbors, and pledging to plant a new tree. We could also work with the city and our sister clubs to encourage leaf saving.
- Take a tour of Hollywood Cemetery's trees, learn what they do for our city, and see the variety of trees they have.
- Support Richmond's newly formed "Cool the City" plan to plant trees in urban areas and complement our club's centennial tree project.
- Learn about national efforts for tree restoration.

Fashion Waste (November 2024 meeting)

- Textile waste is a global problem mainly impacting the physical environment in the most vulnerable places. But it also contributes to the problem of microplastics with the consistent use of synthetic materials by fast fashion companies. Basic material waste and billions of unsold garments have led the fashion industry to focus on their

own impact as well as opening doors for recycling and circular fashion options. Textile recycling is gaining traction in many markets, including Richmond. Fashion labels are taking on the challenge of creating less waste with each garment.

- If we choose to look further into this subject, we will have the opportunity to gain more knowledge about the realities of textile recycling, and how “Circular Fashion” is becoming more mainstream and easily accessible.
- We could also campaign with letters to fashion houses voicing our concerns.
- We could have a fashion swap, or a clothing yard sale to raise money for the club.

Plastics (February 2025 meeting):

- We could investigate and take a tour of The Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (CVWMA) and The TFC (VA's largest residential curbside recyclers)
- We could observe Plastic Free July (or another month), as observed in other countries.
- We could research food and drinks that have the most microplastics in them. See: <https://superage.com/7-foods-and-beverages-that-have-the-most-microplastics-and-what-to-eat-instead/>
- Understanding that plastics leach into food stored in plastic containers for purchase and human consumption, launch a campaign blitz to our legislators and major food and drink companies to resume storing food and drink products in glass bottles.
- We could sign up for another NexTrex challenge.
- We could ask another garden club to join us in another NexTrex challenge.

Backyard Pollution Solutions (March 2025 meeting)

- We could explore many ways to reduce or eliminate traditional pesticides. Natural repellants, beneficial insects, and even natural oils can solve some of the peskiest pest problems in your garden.
- We could suggest alternatives to harmful and deadly mosquito spraying and become advocates for spreading that information to families, friends, and our communities.
- We could choose and pledge to avoid harmful backyard fertilizers to reduce synthetic fertilizer runoff and keep our waterways clean.
- We could choose and pledge to disconnect some of our downspouts and install rain barrels for water conservation. If we bought in bulk, we could possibly get a discount. We could purchase these for the spring sale?

May Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Our annual meeting is on Wednesday, May 14, at **Freddie Gray's** home, Upper Weyanoke, 13901 Weyanoke Road, Charles City.

The meeting begins at 11:00 a.m. Please consult the Evite sent Saturday morning, May 10th, for more information.

Below is the exhibit schedule. Remember, this is the last time you can exhibit this year and get participation credit (per our bylaws). Consult pages 26-30 of our Green Book for exhibiting guidelines. The more you exhibit, the more you learn and become more confident.

Floral Design Exhibits:

- Class I: “Peony Palooza” - Create a stunning arrangement with peonies, the stars of the show. Container of your choice.
- Class II: “Cinco De Mayo” - This is the time to throw caution to the wind and create a floral arrangement that captures the vibrant spirit and colors of Mexican culture, celebrating the festive occasion. Please use a basket or a straw hat as your container.
- Class III: “Plunge into Summer”- Create a modern arrangement where part, or all, of the arrangement is visible through water. Container should be clear.

Horticulture Exhibits:

- Class I: Peonies - Specimen/Collection
- Class II: Natives - Specimen/Collection
- Class III: A Favorite from Your Garden Specimen/Collection
- Class IV: A Sprig for Your Bonnet - Specimen

Photography Exhibits:

- Class I: Native Plant month was in April. Submit a photo of a native plant from your garden.
- Class II: “April Showers Bring May Flowers”. Submit a photo of flowers blooming in the garden.
- Class III: Conservation Awareness: We have learned a lot this past year. Can you pledge to adopt a new conservation habit that most impressed you this past year? Write your pledge, take its picture, and live by it to the best of your abilities. Give it a try! It will create a habit that you can be proud of.

TGC Fundraiser at Greenhouse II



Enjoy member shopping days at



The Greenhouse II

Stop in and shop anytime on
Thursday, May 15th or Friday May 16th.

The Greenhouse II is donating 20%
of club members' purchases to
The Tuckahoe Garden Club.

All merchandise is eligible.

*Perennials - Annuals -
KEW Botanical Collection - Orchids -
Decor - Containers - Ribbon & Bows*

*Present this flyer to the
cashier at checkout.*

Hours: 9 am - 5 pm

The Greenhouse II
5615 Patterson Ave.
Richmond, VA 23236
(804) 285-9993

This year we have two days to shop!
Last year at the evening event, we earned about \$450 from our shopping for the club. This is easy money, ladies, and Suzanne Duncan, co-chair of the Spring Sale, said The Greenhouse II was very generous and easy to work with. Let's support the home team.

Print this flyer by clicking on the image, and remember to bring it with you!

GCV Lily Show



The GCV Lily Show is June 18 from 2 to 4:30
at Chesapeake Academy in Irvington.

Spend a day at the river and enjoy this show, which is free and open to the public.

[Click here](#) for the exhibit schedule.

Historic Garden Week 2025

What a week!

On Tuesday, TGC welcomed 819 visitors to Lower Tuckahoe, West. Many thanks to our own **Lisa Brennan**, who opened her garden and helped procure other homes in her neighborhood to make the tour possible.



Above: Lisa shared these photos of her poolside tablescapes and party-ready poolhouse.

On Wednesday four members created floral designs for the home at 1612 Pope Avenue. Below are a few of their creations. Photos courtesy of Lauren Neal.





On Thursday, 42 members hosted visitors to Clearview on River Road. Led by RoseMarie Bundy, TGC welcomed 1078 visitors to the spectacular home. Shown below are 4 of the 24 arrangements throughout the house. All photos courtesy of RoseMarie.



GCA Founders Fund Results

By Ellen Buoyer

With mixed emotions, I report that the GCA Founders Fund award of \$40,000 went to The Little Garden Club of Rye (New York). However, as one of three finalists, Tuckahoe won \$10,000 for our Virginia War Memorial Public Green Space Project.

Awarded at the recent GCA Annual Meeting, many members commented that to make the top three finalists was an extraordinary accomplishment.

Please thank **RoseMarie Bundy**, author of the impressive grant application, when you see her. She assures us that our \$10,000 will be matched 100% by public and private donors at the war memorial, making a \$20,000 impact on the project. Brava, RoseMarie!

Spring Sale Results



Pictured left to right: Suzanne Duncan, Kent Russell, Megan Matthews, Caroline Packard

We could not have asked for a better day!

The weather was beautiful, the setting spectacular, and there were lots of helping hands and many happy customers. More than 30 left with a Bloomsaver—or two!

And then someone lucky bought a raffle ticket and took one home for a song! Congratulations, **Jennifer Wilkins**, on winning the Bloomsaver! And congratulations, **Molly Revere**, on winning the original watercolor by fellow member and favorite Richmond artist **Chris Shands**! (Thank you, Chris, for donating that work of art.) **Bonnie Cricchi** scored the Orchid Arrangement with her winning ticket, and **Lisa Brennan** won the wine.

Kent Russell arrived with a bounty of horticultural treasures and headed back home to Philadelphia in an empty truck. He collaborated with shoppers and consulted with members, guiding them to the right mix of ingredients for that special garden spot or (favorite) pot.

Demand for the Agapanthus was high; there was a lot of interest among those who had not ordered one, but unfortunately, the Spring Sale team could not source another single one. We are so grateful for the support and participation of a great group of specialty vendors -- August Table, Weezie Thompson, Theadora Miller, and The Bread Drop -- They enhanced the experience for all who came out and shopped at our little sale.

Thank you, **Jennifer Sisk**, for sharing your gorgeous home and gardens. We are so glad you agreed to host the 2025 Sale. It was the perfect setting, and you were the perfect host.

Thank you, **Bonnie Cricchi** and **Karen Berson**, for all your help and hard work on the sale day and afterwards. You were invaluable in managing many transactions at check-out and tracking and tallying all the results.

Thank you, Spring Sale Team, and all who volunteered their time to help with sale prep and set-up, and then assisted shoppers throughout the afternoon.

We had a great day and are happy to report that we raised over \$10,000. We could not be happier with the results, but we're especially happy to know that it was fun for all who participated, shopped, and volunteered.

~Suzanne Duncan and Megan Matthews
"Great Little Garden Sale"

Petals and Prosecco

Spectacular weather on April 23 made for a festive evening touring four members' charming properties on Kingcrest Parkway.

We gathered at **Shelly Wiltshire's** home to kick off with bubbles and nibbles, moved to **Abbie Wharton's** lovely garden, onward to **Jenny Evan's** garden and adorable garden room, and wrapped up at **Chris Shand's** color-filled home and garden.

We can all imagine the stress of opening your garden to fellow members, but these gals did it with aplomb. Many in attendance could be overheard saying, "This is better than garden week." Thank you, Shelly, Abbie, Jenny, and Chris, for being game to try this new event. You made a fond memory in the life of our club.

All photos courtesy of Tricia Sauer.





Flower Hour

On Wednesday, May 7, the Membership Committee sponsored a successful Flower Hour. **Martha Moore and Sue Thompson** shared their prolific knowledge and enthusiasm for gardening, explaining to the aspiring gardeners that starting with herbs is the easiest and most rewarding way to begin. 18 women attended the event, which is an outreach and education activity meant to cultivate interest in gardening and the garden club.



Save your Plastic Bags Over the Summer Months

661 pounds!

We have saved 661 pounds of plastic film from landfills, waterways, and incinerators. Now only 339 pounds remain to achieve our goal of collecting 1000 pounds. Keep up the effort. As we enter the summer months, let's try to keep our focus on the collections.

Our one-year goal to collect ends on October 31.

RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG

Recycle your household bags & wrap into Trex's Earth-friendly composite decking and railing!



FROM THE STORE



✓ Produce bags

✓ Store bags

✓ Ice bags



FROM YOUR PANTRY



✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags

✓ Cereal box liners

✓ Case overwrap

✓ Bread bags



FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR



✓ Newspaper sleeves

✓ Dry cleaning bags

✓ Bubble wrap

✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers

Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue



NexTrex

trex.com/recycling 1-800-Buy-Trex

DO NOT INCLUDE THESE ITEMS IN NEXTREX® PROGRAMS



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FOOD BAGS



CANDY BAR
WRAPPERS



CHIP
BAGS



NET OR MESH
PRODUCE BAGS



PET FOOD
BAGS

OR THESE

- ✗ Degradable/compostable bags or film packaging
- ✗ Pre-washed salad mix bags
- ✗ Hot dog or meat wrap packaging
- ✗ Six-pack rings
- ✗ PPE- Gloves, masks, or protective wear
- ✗ Pool covers
- ✗ Lamination film
- ✗ Silage and hay bags
- ✗ Vinyl shower curtains or tablecloths
- ✗ Bedding or linen packaging
- ✗ Shiny, crinkly films like floral wrap
- ✗ Backyard ice rinks

DON'T SEE YOUR ITEM ON THE LIST?

Try these tests to see if your plastic is acceptable or not.

See if the package will stretch when you pull it. If yes, it can be included. If it tears like paper, then please don't put in the bin.

Is the package shiny or does it make a crinkly/crunchy sound in your hand? If yes, do NOT recycle in the NexTrex® bin.



NexTrex



trex.com/recycling 540-542-6930

Mark Your Calendars

(all membership meetings are held on Wednesdays)

May 14 at 11:00 am
Annual Meeting and Luncheon

At the home of Freddie Gray, Upper Weyanoke on the James River,
Charles City County
Hostesses: Kelly Armstrong*, Lizzie Cox, Kate O'Hagan, Maria Reed*, Katherine Salt

Look for a newsletter in June to recap our Annual Meeting.

Board Reports

Keep up with your Board's activity by reading the monthly [Board Report](#) for April.

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 jennyw99@gmail.com with any comments, questions or concerns.

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