

# Virginia Beach

230

Wednesday,  
April 22, 2015  
10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Photo courtesy of Randy Adams.

Beach cottages hold a special attraction for everyone who's ever enjoyed a vacation on the sand. They evoke memories of sun, fun and relaxing to the rhythms of the sea. A railroad company laid out Virginia Beach's North End, a narrow three-mile strip that is only two blocks wide for much of its length, in the 1880s and sold lots for summer cottages. This tour includes five private homes and gardens in the North End, a garden, as well as the new Brock Environmental Center, Virginia's "greenest" building, and home to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Today's North Enders, both full-time and part-time, are increasingly interested in preserving the beaches and waterways that drew them here. Tour includes visits to an oyster garden, a bird watching tour at the end of the day at the Brock Environmental Center (space limited) and access to six nearby historic properties on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday.



## Hosted by

The Princess Anne Garden Club  
The Virginia Beach Garden Club

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## Tour Information

**Tickets:** \$40 pp. On tour day at headquarters only, Princess Anne Country Club, 3800 Pacific Ave. No single house tickets available.

**Advance Tickets:** \$30 pp. [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org). On or before April 21st at the following locations: Baker's Fine Jewelry & Gifts, Virginia Beach Visitors Center, Willis

Furniture, Yves Delorme, Flowers at Hilltop, The Globe, McDonald Garden Center, Richard Stravitz Gallery (Laskin Rd. location), Flowers – Wayne Jones, London Bridge Greenhouses and Nursery.

**L** Buffet at Princess Anne Country Club for \$15 pp. from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (757) 428-4141 for reservations or questions.

**L** Boxed lunches available at the Brock Center from noon to 2 p.m. Taste Unlimited (757) 464-1566 to place order (reference Brock Center and Garden Tour). For menu, go to [http://www.tasteunlimited.com/Content/Us-erFiles/Taste\\_Menu.pdf](http://www.tasteunlimited.com/Content/Us-erFiles/Taste_Menu.pdf).

**R** Complimentary and served from 2 to 4 p.m. in the garden at 515 Wilder Rd.

**A** Garden Market at Princess Anne Country Club (tour headquarters), and celebrate Earth Day with an Audubon bird-watching tour at Brock Environmental Center at 4:30 p.m. Bring comfortable shoes, binoculars, bug spray. Space limited, call (757) 495-7775 for more information.

**Directions to the tour area:** Take I-264E until it ends and becomes 21st St. Go 0.5 mi., turn left on Pacific Ave. Go 1.1 mi. to The Princess Anne Country Club, 3800 Pacific Ave. (tour headquarters), on left. The best way to reach tour houses is by shuttle from tour headquarters. To reach houses in personal vehicles, continue north on Pacific



117 54th Street

Ave., which becomes Atlantic Ave. past 40th St. Houses are one block oceanside and 1-3 blocks landside off Atlantic Ave. The Brock Environmental Center is located off Shore Dr. west of the Lesner Bridge. From the Princess Anne Country Club (tour headquarters), take Atlantic Ave. north for 2.9 mi., bear left on Shore Dr. Go 6.7 mi., turn left on Marlin Bay Dr. Go 0.3 mi. to Brock Center entrance path at end of street.

**Ticket includes admission to the following 5 private homes, 1 garden and 7 historic properties:**

### **Greystone** 515 Wilder Road (Landside, off 52nd Street)

**Garden only.** This property encapsulates the tour's two themes: seaside vacation cottages and conservation of the coastal environment. The palatial stone residence was built in 1906 as a summer home. Today it is a year round residence and site of the first project of the Crystal Club, an environmental initiative dedicated to restoring oyster reefs. Visitors can tour the mansion's magnificent gardens and learn about the miracle

mollusks cleaning the surrounding waters. Soon after New York native John Masury purchased the land between Crystal Lake and the oceanfront, he began construction. Amenities included a covered boardwalk to the beach and a private spur from the railroad connecting Norfolk to the tiny resort town of Virginia Beach. The current owner, a Master Gardener, has devoted years to creating the gardens that encircle the historic home. Terraced beds and stone walks make every rare plant and statue accessible to visitors. Many of them were commissioned in Vietnam, the owner's ancestral home. James Reidy, the owners' eldest son, will be on hand to talk about the 3,000-square-foot oyster reef installed in 2008 soon after he started the Crystal Club. The 70-member club oversaw construction of its tenth reef this year. Thanks to their efforts, the waters of Crystal Lake are noticeably clearer. All the Crystal Club reefs are sanctuaries and the oysters are protected. *Frank and Juliette Reidy, owners.*

### **305 53rd Street (Landside)**

**\*** A shingled two-story traditional residence built nearly 65 years ago has been reimagined as a private resort. The exterior would be recognizable to its original owners but the interior was updated with

an open, modern feel that works well for entertaining. The living-room fireplace has been faced with a floor-to-ceiling surround made of large river rocks. A baby grand piano and a quartet of comfortable chairs furnish the clutter-free space. Another seating area adjoins the kitchen, separated by a gray brick and walnut pass-through. The all-white kitchen has a honed black travertine marble floor. The mosaic behind the cooktop depicting three doves at a birdbath repeats the white, gray and black color theme. The backyard swimming pool, designed and installed by the owner, is the *pièce de résistance*, both a peaceful retreat and a place to entertain. The pool also functions as a soothing fountain with water falling from copper scuppers set into a dry stacked stone wall. The pool is surfaced in an aggregate of black pebbles, glass and abalone shells, making it beautiful by day and dazzling at night. A well-appointed outdoor kitchen was added to the front of the old garage while the interior was repurposed as a workout room. *Tom and Kelly Rowe, owners.*

### 117 54th Street (Oceanside)

 The 70-year-old shingled beach cottage is a family gathering place sure to elicit envy from grandparents and grandchildren alike. Six bedrooms, including a third-floor bunk room, provide space for all the children and grandchildren to visit at the same time. The present owners purchased the property in 2011 and began alterations to make it even more family friendly. They removed a rental apartment from a free-standing garage and added a second floor to accommodate a laundry room and bath for sandy beach-goers and a workshop. Both husband and wife are do-it-yourself types who've done a lot of the work themselves. They doubled the size of the backyard deck and planted the perimeter of the fenced-in backyard with colorful flowers. Inside, they added a bath and eliminated a wall separating the kitchen from a sitting room. Family history is captured in a framed christening dress made in 1888 by the owner's great-grandmother. It dominates the hallway leading to the second-floor bedrooms. The grandchildren have accommodations on the third floor, which is furnished with two bunk beds and two trundles. The metal lockers labeled with each child's name are a reminder of the owner's years as an elementary principal. The couple hosts a weeklong camp for the older grandchildren each summer. *Ted and Katie Hand, owners.*

### 201 78th Street (Landside)

 The energy of a young family enlivens this venerable landside beach cottage named The Winedown. Bright colors, wide stripes and offbeat combinations reflect a relaxed child- and dog-friendly aesthetic. The present owners purchased their beach house three years ago and immediately updated the exterior, substituting gray planks for cedar shakes and replacing the brick foundation with stacked stone. Shutters and window boxes completed the new look. A center hall and stairwell painted lemon-drop yellow bisect the first floor. On one side is the expansive kitchen and dining room formed from three small rooms. On the other side of the hall is a large living room and a glassed-in side porch named the Jungle Room and reserved for children's play space. The owner is an artist and graphic designer who seeks creative solutions to everyday problems. When finger prints proved a problem on the stairwell's matte walls, she added a two-foot stripe above the baseboard in a washable paint she calls "American cheese yellow." Horizontal stripes in pickle green and white perk up one bedroom while names, words and phrases painted on the Bohemian sea blue walls of the boys' room add linguistic flair. *Taylor and Emily Franklin, owners.*

### 106 80th Street (Oceanside)

 Summer Place is the name on an old cottage that has been transformed into a luxurious getaway. When the present owners purchased the 55-year-old Dutch Colonial six years ago, they began by opening up the downstairs of the residence into a single large space. They removed the kitchen wall and shifted the location of the staircase. A bay window in the former dining room now holds a glass-fronted wine cellar. The screened porch to the rear gained new energy with a large stone fireplace and a motorized window wall that retracts so that the space can be opened to the patio and plunge pool outside. This room serves as a connector to the four-bedroom addition on the rear. The second floor of the original house had a glamorous makeover as well. Four modest bedrooms were converted to a master suite and a wine-tasting room. The owners' love of color is evident throughout. The living room and kitchen are painted a deep red with crisp white trim. Furnishings are happy yellow and admiral blue. The red walls flow up the stairwell to a wine room where a pair of

larger-than-life wooden figures by Yorktown artist Nancy Thomas celebrates the good life. Much of the artwork is by the owners' daughter-in-law whose home is also on the tour. *Wendell and Martha Franklin, owners.*

**8700 Ocean Front Avenue**

 Live oaks shade the entrance of the stone and shingle beach house built in 1999. They shield a private garden tucked behind the dunes from the view of beach-goers on the adjacent public walkway. The disembodied sound of children's laughter adds a happy note to the orchard-stone terrace located just outside a ground-floor sitting room. The master suite on the second floor has an office and a screened porch. Large photos of Haiti are reminders of the owners' humanitarian trips with Compassion International. Bathrooms and guestrooms show off light-hearted wallpapers and fabrics while works by local artists lend energy to the hallways and stairwell. The paintings are beautifully enigmatic, inviting viewers to assign their own meanings. While renovating the kitchen in 2007, the present owners decided to remove a wall between the kitchen and living room to expand the kitchen visually. The boldly-hued kitchen table and chairs, discovered in an art gallery near their home in northern Virginia, established the color scheme for the third-floor

living room where warm gray walls set off rich reds and royal blues. The hand-knotted ikat rug in the living room echoes the rich palette. Virginia Beach artist Ellen Sinclair painted the large canvas of seagulls soaring in front of a rising or setting sun. *Michael and Carol Donovan, owners.*

**Brock Environmental Center**  
**3663 Marlin Bay Drive**

*The Brock Center is located off Shore Dr. west of the Lesner Bridge. From the Princess Anne Country Club (tour headquarters), take Atlantic Ave. north to Shore Dr. Go approximately 6.75 miles, turn left on Marlin Bay Dr. Street parking. Wooded path to building at end of road. Enjoy a quiet 5 min. walk to the building.* Virginia Beach's newest crown jewel is the Brock Environmental Center. A community environmental education center, the structure is home to both the Hampton Roads office of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Lynnhaven River NOW, a local environmental group. The greenest building in the Commonwealth is built to LEED Platinum standards, and the even more rigorous prerequisites of the Living Building Challenge that require a building to have a net zero impact on the environment. Solar panels and wind turbines provide energy for the center. Rain is its sole water source. Recycled



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building materials from demolished buildings – floors, interior trim, countertops, sinks, fixtures, and more – find a second life here. The exterior siding is milled from fallen cypress trees abandoned a century ago in mud of Louisiana river bottoms. Pleasure House Point itself is a happy ending that shows what the public, conservation groups, and a supportive city government can accomplish working together. The 118-acre parcel was slated for a development of 1,100 homes, but the recession slowed that long enough for the Trust for Public Land, the City of Virginia Beach, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to purchase it. Pleasure House Point is now a public natural area where people kayak, fish, watch birds, and enjoy the beauty of its tidal marshes, dunes, and maritime forest. [cbf.org/Brock](http://cbf.org/Brock)

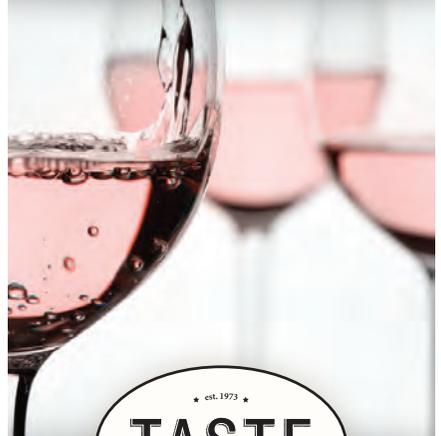
**Note:** The following historic homes are open at no additional charge with a full ticket for the Virginia Beach tour on Wednesday from 1 to 4:30 p.m. and also on Thursday at regularly scheduled hours. Six properties are listed on the National and Virginia Historic Registers.

 **The Adam Thoroughgood House, 1636 Parish Rd.** In 1636, Capt. Adam Thoroughgood received a grant of 5,350 acres, the largest land grant to that date, for his contributions to the Virginia colony. The house was actually built by his great grandson c. 1719. The grounds were a restoration project of the Garden Club of Virginia in 1958-59 and 1990 using proceeds from Historic Garden Week. The gardens are maintained by Virginia Beach Master Gardeners. Guided tours include discussions of the historical uses and lore of herbs. (757) 460-7588 or [www.museumsvb.org](http://www.museumsvb.org)

**Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum, Dewitt Cottage, 1113 Atlantic Ave.** The oldest remaining structure on the Virginia Beach Oceanfront was built in 1895 when the city was a small seaside resort town. The cottage features historic decoys and an exhibit on the early history of Virginia Beach. The garden was designed and planted by The Princess Anne Garden Club. (757) 437-8432 or [www.AWHM.org](http://www.AWHM.org)

**Ferry Plantation House, 4136 Cheswick Ln.** A ferry across the Lynnhaven River operated here from 1642 until the 19th century. The present three-story house was built in 1830 with brick salvaged from an earlier home that burned. The central-passageway Federal farmhouse with 10 rooms tells the

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story of Grace Sherwood, Virginia's only convicted witch tried by water. Gov. Tim Kaine exonerated her in 2006. Docents in antebellum attire dry and roast tea leaves and herbs from the home's gardens. Open all week. Refreshments served on tour day. (757) 473-5182 or [www.museumsvb.org](http://www.museumsvb.org)

**Francis Land House, 3131 Virginia Beach Blvd.** The early 19th-century brick house was built by Francis Moseley Land on property that had been in his family for six generations. Includes original paneling and floors, period furnishings and gardens. The colonial vegetable and herb gardens were designed, planted and are maintained by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardener volunteers. Period floral arrangements created by the Council of Garden Clubs of Virginia Beach featured. On tour day, a special program with refreshments and music offered from 2 to 4 p.m. (757) 385-5100 or [www.museumsvb.org](http://www.museumsvb.org)

**Lynnhaven House, 4405 Wishart Rd.** Built in 1725, this story-and-a-half brick home with kitchen and hall down and two bed chambers above, is an example of early 18th-century Tidewater Virginia vernacular architecture. The kitchen herb garden, originally designed and planted by The Princess Anne Garden Club, offers insight into the many and varied uses of herbs in the early 18th-century. (757) 460-7109 or [www.museumsvb.org](http://www.museumsvb.org)

**Upper Wolfsnare, 2040 Potter's Rd.** Built in 1759 by Thomas Walke III, the three-story brick Georgian house was constructed near the Wolfsnare Creek, which was navigable at the time. Noteworthy are the central passage and stairway that serves four floors. (757) 491-3490 or [www.virginiabeachhistory.org](http://www.virginiabeachhistory.org)

**Whitehurst-Buffington House, 2441 North Landing Rd.** The original clapboard house was smaller than the current house, with one room below and a stairway that rose to one room above. The large outside chimneys on either end of the house are original, as are the mantels. Presently unfurnished, this house is a wonderful example of a historic structure in the process of restoration. Located on 8 bucolic acres adjacent to the West Neck Natural Area. (757) 427-1151



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Photo courtesy of  
Rendy Adams

### Key to HGW Tour Symbols

- |                                      |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>W</b> walking tour                | <b>G</b> garden emphasis       |
| <b>H</b> history focus               | <b>L</b> lunch offered         |
| <b>B</b> conducive for bus groups    | <b>R</b> refreshments included |
| <b>P</b> designated parking          | <b>S</b> shuttles available    |
| <b>A</b> special activities included | <b>!</b> important notes       |
| <b>*</b> first time on HGW Tour      | <b>🌿</b> GCV restoration site  |



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