

Stop and Smell the Azaleas

During Virginia's Historic Garden Week BY KAREN NEWTON

Come April, visitors will gather at over 200 of Virginia's most beautiful gardens, homes, and historic landmarks during what has been called "America's Largest Open House."

Garden Club of Virginia's 80th Historic Garden Week will run statewide April 20–27.

The event provides visitors a unique opportunity to see unforgettable gardens at the peak of spring color, as well as homes sparkling with more than 2,000 spectacular flower arrangements created by club members. Expect a riot of azaleas, dogwood, iris, tulips, and early roses.

"Virginia is especially beautiful during Historic Garden Week," says Lynn McCashin, the club's executive director. "Richmond is the perfect place to serve as a hub during this annual springtime event."

The state capital features three tours high-

lighting distinct neighborhoods: Chatham Hills/Windsor-on-the-James, Laburnum Park, and the Windsor Farms/Rothesay Circle/Lock Lomond area.

"Since 1929, Historic Garden Week

has raised millions of dollars for the restoration of public gardens across Virginia," says State Chairman Anne Geddy Cross. "It's hard to conceive of the breadth of this event."

Historic Garden Week 2013 will feature 32 separate tours, representing the coordinated efforts of 3,400 club members. One hundred percent of tour proceeds go toward enhancing Virginia's landscape. For 80 years, the grounds of the commonwealth's most cherished historic landmarks, including Mount Vernon, Monticello, and the Executive Mansion in Richmond, have been restored or preserved with proceeds from the event.

From left: Gardens at Tuckahoe Plantation, the boyhood home of Thomas Jefferson; Numerous private homes open their doors showcasing gardens, interior design and architecture.

GARDEN CLUB
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*80th Historic
Garden Week*

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