

Richmond:

# The James River Plantations

Wednesday, April 27, 2016  
10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Photo courtesy of Upper Shirley Vineyards

Open in conjunction with Historic Richmond, an organization founded in 1956 with the goal of preserving Richmond's distinctive historic character, several of the James River Plantations along scenic Route 5, including private family homes, working plantations and a vineyard never before on the tour, will be open for Historic Garden Week, creating a memorable experience. Visitors will enjoy special access to these living links to our history, all of which are Virginia and National Historic Landmarks. Box lunches will be available for pre-order at Westover Episcopal Church in Charles City. Constructed between 1630 and 1637, it will also open for tours. An upscale catered lunch with wine and a featured speaker at nearby Upper Shirley Vineyards is another option; those tickets must be purchased in advance. Grounds at the vineyard will give visitors an opportunity to learn about Virginia's burgeoning wine industry. Additionally, bike enthusiasts may take advantage of the new Virginia Capital Trail that connects all the sites on the tour.



**Council of Historic Richmond and the four GCV Clubs located in Richmond**

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#### Contact information for Bus Groups

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#### Plantation Contacts

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www.berkeleyplantation.com

**Shirley Plantation:**  
Randy Carter (804) 829-5121 or  
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#### Westover Plantation:

Andrea Erda (804) 829-2882 or  
info@westover-plantation.com  
www.westover-plantation.com

**Tickets:** \$65 pp. \$20 single-site.

**Advance Ticket:** \$60 pp. www.vagardenweek.org or locally in Richmond at Ellwood Thompson's, Fraiche, Irresistibles, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Greenhouse II, Libbie Market, The Shops at 5807, Sneed's Nursery & Garden Center, Strange's Florist Greenhouse & Garden Center, Tweed and Williams & Sherrill.

**Combo Ticket:** \$130 pp three-day pass available online only at www.vagardenweek.org. Allows access to all three days of Richmond touring, Wednesday - Thursday and Friday - featuring 21 properties in total.

**Group Tour Information:** 20 or more people in advance is \$125 pp for combo, \$55 pp for plantation tour.

**Headquarters:** Upper Shirley Vineyards, 600 Shirley Plantation Road. Tour information and tickets available at this location. Credit card purchases will be available at headquarters only. Bus tours and large groups should start the tour at headquarters.

**I** This is a country, walking tour; given paths and extensive outdoor grounds, appropriate, comfortable walking shoes are recommended. For those biking, bicycle racks will be available at the tour sites.

**L** \$15 box lunch with advance reservations from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Westover Church, 6401 John Tyler Memorial Hwy. Note: Box lunches also available on 4/26 and 4/28. [westoverepiscopalchurch.org/2016-garden-week-box-lunch-orders/](http://westoverepiscopalchurch.org/2016-garden-week-box-lunch-orders/) and click on “HGW lunch” and follow prompts.

**L** Additionally, an upscale catered lunch at Upper Shirley Vineyards, 600 Shirley Plantation Road, for \$65 pp includes three-course plated luncheon, wine, and presentation. Tickets sold in advance only at Upper Shirley Vineyards and [www.uppershirleyvineyards.com](http://www.uppershirleyvineyards.com). No tickets available for purchase at door. Speaker Richard Leahy, author of *Beyond Jefferson's Vines*, will present “Virginia Wine: Great Today, Where Tomorrow?,” the story of wine in Virginia, from the Jamestown Settlement, to Thomas Jefferson and his vineyard at Monticello, to the thriving world-class wine industry of today. He will focus on the last decade and explain how modern vintners have achieved the success Jefferson only dreamed of. Signed copies of books for sale following the luncheon. [www.richardleahy.com](http://www.richardleahy.com)

**R** Complimentary light refreshments served at Riverview Plantation, 1330 Shirley Plantation Road, in the barn, and Berkley Plantation, 12602 Harrison Landing Road, in the Coach House, from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Facilities:** Upper Shirley, Riverview Farm, Berkley Plantation, Westover and Westover Church.

**A** Kent-Valentine House, 12 East Franklin St. Headquarters of the Garden Club of Virginia and Historic Garden Week in Virginia, is open April 27, 28 and 29 from 10 a.m. to noon during Historic Garden Week only. [www.gcvirginia.org](http://www.gcvirginia.org).

**Directions heading East into Richmond on I-64:** From 64, take I-295 South around Richmond. Take Exit #22A onto Scenic Rt. 5. Heading West on I-64 from Williams-

burg: Take Exit #211 (Rt. 106 south). Follow to Rt. 5. From Williamsburg (scenic route): Take Rt. 199 to Monticello Rd. exit and follow it west until it merges with Rt. 5 west toward Richmond.

**P** This is a driving (or cycling) tour. There will be ample parking and bicycle racks at each tour site. Please wear comfortable walking shoes. Bus groups should make prior arrangements for tickets and parking prior to arrival.

**Ticket includes admission to the following 7 properties:**

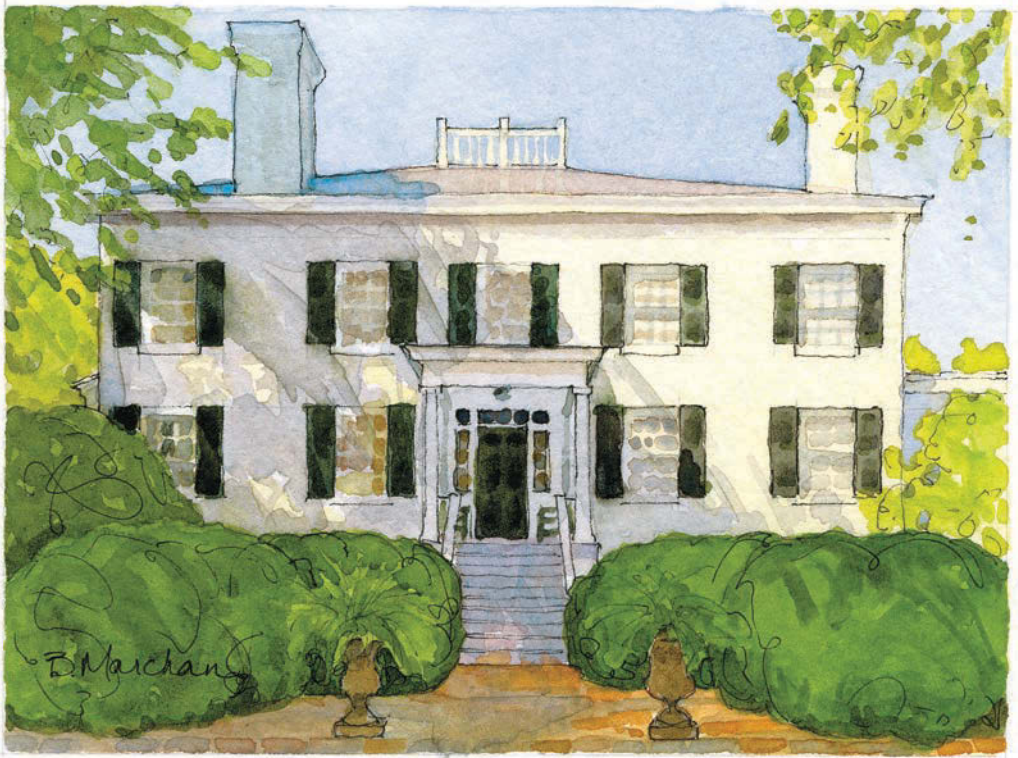
### Upper Shirley Vineyards 600 Shirley Plantation Road

**\*** Established in 2013 with a small 1.5-acre block of vines, Upper Shirley Vineyard currently contains 16 acres under vine with plans to expand. Planted in *vitis vinifera*, European varieties include Petit Verdot, a Bordeaux red grape valued in its blending role for its spice and tannin, which is now a successful stand-alone varietal. Other grapes grown on the property are Viognier, a Rhone Valley white grape that is the official Virginia grape, with aromas of peach and pear. Merlot, another of the five Bordeaux red grapes, ripens early and is softer in tannin than its blending partners. Tannat, a lesser known Basque red grape, is now making some of the most impressive wines in Virginia. All four are planted at Upper Shirley. Rows are oriented north-south. There are five feet between each plant and 11 feet between rows. There are two trellis systems, modified Ballerina and Vertical Shoot Positioning (VSP). Block 1 Petit Verdot is on the modified Ballerina. The eastern shoots are trained upward through three sets of catch wires as with VSP; the western facing shoots are trained downward. This requires a second cordon wire with both cordons placed at a height of 42” to accommodate the downward shoots. The vineyard is irrigated and protected by a 10-foot deer fence with buried rodent barrier; heavy bird pressure demands netting the vineyard annually. *Taylor and Susan Dameron, owners.*

### Upper Shirley 700 Shirley Plantation Road

**Grounds only.** The land of Upper Shirley is part of the tract granted to Sir Thomas West, Lord De La Warr, first Royal Governor of Virginia, in 1613, just six years after the settlement of Jamestown. It was later





Upper Shirley

known as the West and Shirley Hundred and eventually Shirley Plantation. Upper Shirley has its origin in the original brick house at Shirley Plantation. That house, built c.1660, was three stories, each with two rooms and similar in configuration to the service buildings flanking the current manor house. A contract between Hill Carter and builder A.H. Marks describes the dismantling of the “old house” and the reuse of the brick for the construction of Upper Shirley in 1867. This was a remarkable accomplishment given the fledgling state of Reconstruction in this area. Built for Hill’s son William Fitzhugh Carter, the home was sold out of the Carter family in 1885. Shortly thereafter, the house was doubled in size and the 17th-century brick was covered with plaster, reflecting an architectural trend seen in the Governor’s Mansion and the Wickham House in Richmond. The double gallery porch on the riverfront was removed and relocated from the Warren House in Harrisonburg. Upper Shirley’s servant’s house (now a guest cottage), ice house, smokehouse and boxwood garden are restored and largely original. In 2013, current owners Tayloe and Susan Dameron planted a 16-acre vineyard of *vitis vinifera* grapes consisting of Petit Verdot, Viognier, Merlot and Tannat, creating Upper Shirley Vineyards. *Tayloe and Susan Dameron, owners.*

## Shirley Plantation

### 501 Shirley Plantation Road

Shirley Plantation is home to 11 generations of one family who continue to own, operate and work Virginia’s first plantation. Established only six years after John Smith’s settlement at Jamestown in 1607, Shirley Plantation is the oldest family-owned business in North America, dating to 1638. The present mansion was begun in 1723 as a wedding present for Elizabeth Hill and John Carter, eldest son of Robert “King” Carter. The mother of Confederate General Robert E. Lee, Anne Hill Carter, was born at Shirley and married Revolutionary War hero “Light Horse Harry” Lee in the Great House parlor. Considered by many to be the most intact Colonial estate in America, the Great House is largely in its original state and features a three-floor, square-rigged or “flying” staircase in the main hall. The guided tour of the Great House highlights stories from the Hill Carter family, including several occasions when the property was saved by the hard work, dedication and humanity of the Carter women. Formal gardens, eight original Colonial outbuildings and commanding views of the James River complete this majestic setting. Tour will be of the first floor. Please note, Shirley will also be open on 4/26 and 4/28. *The Charles Hill Carter family, owners.*

## Riverview Farm

### 1330 Shirley Plantation Road

Riverview Farm, originally part of Dogham, was established in 1850 by John Pleasant Royall and his wife, Mary Howell Douthat, a descendant of William Randolph. The original home burned and was rebuilt in 1860. The Greek-revival, antebellum home is frame with a brick English basement. Four chimneys rise above the slate hipped roof. The west facade overlooks the James River with a recessed portico, handsome pediment and elegant, two-story columns. The east facade welcomes visitors with an upper and lower porch supported by Greek columns and crowned with a double staircase. The interior has a 4-on-4 floor plan with center hall, 11 working fireplaces, wide-plank pine floors, cornice and pilaster-framed windows and doors, original moldings, and 14-foot ceilings on the main floor. During the Civil War, the house survived cannon fire and Union encampment. A riverfront Gillette garden was installed in 1927, contained within a serpentine brick wall and herringbone walkways, made up of English boxwood and band quatrefoil reflecting pond converted to a swimming pool. The current owners operate Riverview as The Nordt Family Farm. They grow corn, soybeans, cotton, wheat and hay, as well as raise merino sheep and hand-dye wool with plant dyes to craft hand-woven blankets. The manor house, Gillette garden, weaving studio, cottage, stable, sheep barn, artist studio, and vegetable garden will be open to visitors. Riverview was last open for HGW in 1951 when the garden was featured on the cover of the guidebook. *Bill and Dianne Nordt, owners.*

## Dogham Farm

### 1601 Dogham Lane

In 1642, Joseph Royall patented 600 acres on the north side of the James River in Charles City County. The plantation he named “Doggams” later became known as “Dogham” in the 18th century. Following the death of Joseph Royall, his widow married Henry Isham. The property remains in the Royall and Isham lines today. Dogham is representative of the simple houses that abounded in the Virginia Colonial period. The oldest part of the house is the central portion with entrance hall, dining room, upstairs bedroom, and basement below (former kitchen), each with a fireplace. The Royall family thought this portion was built in 1652. However, architectural historians from Colonial Williamsburg believe it was likely built after 1700. Additional expansions occurred

in the early 1700s. Major restorations in the mid-19th century include many of the present architectural details. In 1941, the house was expanded, adding a kitchen wing, children’s dining room, 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, and game and service rooms. The Charles Gillette-planned garden was also developed at this time. Situated between Malvern Hill and Berkeley Plantation, Dogham was inevitably involved in the Civil War. In 1862, U.S. General McClellan made his headquarters in a gunboat on the James River, several hundred yards from Dogham’s bluffs. Plowed fields frequently yield bullets, shell fragments, buttons and other artifacts. Today, Dogham Farm is comprised of 750 acres and is on the National Register of Historic Places, and Virginia Landmarks Register. As a Virginia Century Farm, Dogham is protected from future development by a conservation easement held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and the James River Association. This home hasn’t been open in support of Historic Garden Week since the 1950s. *The Mitchell Family, owners.*

## Berkeley Plantation

### 12602 Harrison Landing Road

The site of the first official Thanksgiving in 1619, Berkeley is also the birthplace of Benjamin Harrison V, signer of the Declaration of Independence and three-time governor of Virginia. The estate is the birthplace of William Henry Harrison, ninth president of the United States, and ancestral home of his grandson, Benjamin Harrison, the 23rd president. *Taps* was composed here when General McClellan headquartered 140,000 Union troops on the property for two months in 1862. The original Georgian mansion, built in 1726 of brick fired on the plantation, occupies a landscaped hilltop site overlooking the James River. The date of the building and the initials of the owners, Benjamin Harrison IV and his wife Anne, appear in a date stone over a side door. The mansion is said to be the oldest three-story brick house in Virginia that can prove its date, and the first with a pediment roof. Five terraced gardens leading from the house to the river were dug by hand before the Revolutionary War. Many hundred-year-old trees grace the restored boxwood garden offering breathtaking vistas of the James River. On the adjacent farmland, sheep graze in the distant rolling hills on this nearly 1000-acre plantation. Berkeley was a recent recipient of a GCV Research Fellowship funded with proceeds from HGW tours. Please note, Berkeley will also be open on 4/26 and 4/28. *The Malcolm E. Jamieson family, owners.*

## Westover Plantation

### 7000 Westover Road

William Byrd II, author, diarist, Colonial leader and founder of the cities of Petersburg and Richmond, built the house, one of the finest examples of Georgian architecture in America, around 1730. Westover's special charm lies in its elegant yet extremely simple form and perfect proportions. Of interest are the steepness of the roof, the tall chimneys in pairs at both ends of the main house, and the elaborate doorway, which continues to be recognized as "the Westover doorway" despite its adaptation to many other buildings and homes. Shaded by 150-year-old tulip poplars, Westover's lawn offers a commanding view of the James River and majestic eagles soaring overhead. The grounds are still protected by wrought-iron gates hung by William Byrd in 1709 and considered the finest set of 18th-century gates in the country. William Byrd II's tombstone, in the center of the beautiful walled formal garden, gives an interesting account of his life and provides insight into the values of his time. The interior, normally closed to the public, is noted for the beautiful proportions of the rooms, ornately carved ceilings, the detail of the cornice and stairway, and an unusual black mantelpiece. After the death of William Byrd III's widow in 1814, Westover was sold out of the Byrd family. In 1921 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Crane acquired the property. Today, their great-granddaughter and her family make it their home and care for this historic landmark. Westover was featured on the first Historic Garden Week in 1929. Westover was a recent recipient of a GCV Research Fellowship funded with proceeds from HGW tours. Please note, Westover will also be open on 4/26 and 4/28. *Rob and Andrea Erda, owners.*

## Westover Episcopal Church

### 6401 John Tyler Memorial Highway

Between 1611 and 1613, as colonists moved west from Jamestown, several small parishes were formed and eventually merged to become Westover. The original Westover Church was constructed between 1630 and 1637 on nearby Westover Plantation. In 1730 construction of the current church was completed at its site on Herring Creek, 1.5 miles north of Westover plantation. The end of support for the Episcopal Church through public taxation at the start of the Revolutionary War, followed by the War of 1812, the prejudice against the Church as an English loyalist

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institution, and a declining interest in religion culminated in a period of desecration at Westover. For 30 years after 1803, Westover Church was misused as a barn and services of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Virginia lapsed completely in Charles City County. In 1833, however, religious services were revived by the Reverend Parke Farley Berkeley, a missionary sent to Charles City County. At this time the church structure was repaired and restored, principally through the efforts of the Harrisons and Carters, owners of Berkeley and Shirley plantations. Badly damaged by Federal troops during the Civil War, Westover Church was once more restored to service in 1867 and has been used faithfully ever since. Worshippers at Westover have included Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Harrison, Tyler and Theodore Roosevelt as well as farmers, plantation owners and their slaves. [www.westoverepiscopalchurch.org](http://www.westoverepiscopalchurch.org)

### 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>GCV</b> restoration site    |



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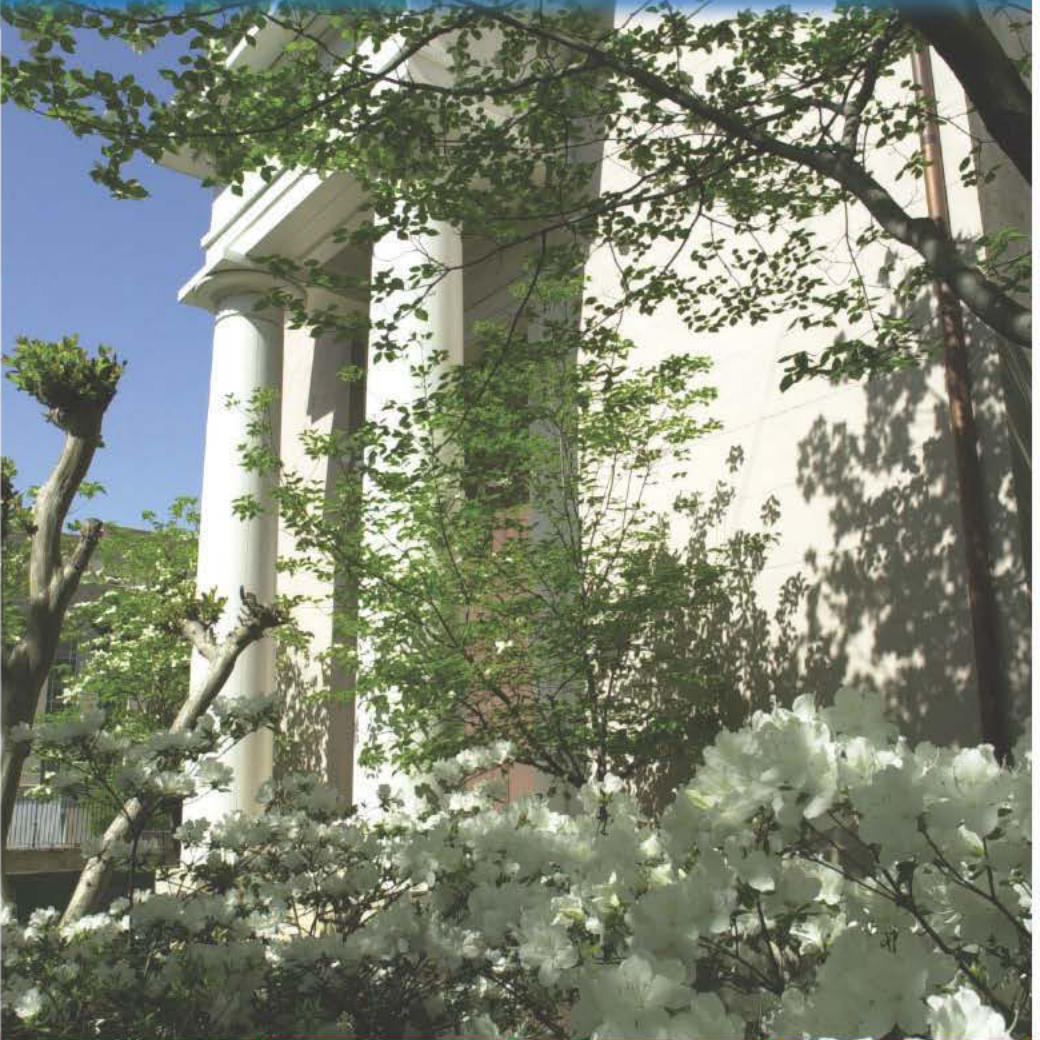
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