Eastern Shore

Saturday, April 30, 2016
9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A roguish charm saturates the vibe of this small peninsula where life happens once you get off the beaten path. The Eastern Shore of Virginia may be considered remote, but if you are a gardener, a beachcomber, a gourmand, or history enthusiast, the Eastern Shore is only a short drive away. Untouched natural beaches flank historic downtowns with quaint hotels and restaurants. Family operated farms and vineyards envelop the landscape where private homes and gardens have coexisted in a wholesome peace since the early 17th century.

Hosted by
The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

Co-Chairmen
Ellie Gordon
(757) 710-0763 or
easternshore@vagardenweek.org

Page Young
(757) 710-4697 or
easternshore@vagardenweek.org

Group Tours
Susan Dixon
(757) 641-2047 or
easternshore@vagardenweek.org

Tour Information
Websites: www.esgardentours.com and www.vagardenweek.org

Tickets: $45 pp. Children 5-12, $20. Single site ticket $15. Tickets available on day of tour at all tour properties.

Advance Tickets: $40 pp. www.vagardenweek.org Tickets available locally through Thursday, April 28 at all Virginia Shore Bank locations: Cape Charles, Exmore, Onley and Chincoteague; the Book Bin, Onley; Ker Place, Onancock and Rayfield’s Pharmacy, Nassawadox and Cape Charles. Cash or check only.

Available at Christ Episcopal Church, 16304 Courthouse Rd., Eastville. Visit www.esgardentours.com for details and directions.

Check www.esgardentours.com for updated information.

Hungers Church will be decorated as if a turn-of-the-century wedding was taking place.

Parking available at all properties.

Directions: From the south: Rt. 13 (Northampton Blvd.) in Virginia Beach to Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and continue north on Rt. 13. From the north: Delaware Memorial Bridge to Rt. 1 South to Rt. 13 South. From Washington/Baltimore: Rt. 50 East across Bay Bridge at Annapolis and continue on Rt. 50 East to Rt. 13 South at Salisbury. Complete directions to each tour property can be found in the Eastern Shore Garden Tour brochure and at: www.esgardentours.com
Salt Grove
19489 Robin Rd., Cheriton

Named after the colonists’ early salt mining industry, Salt Grove is located at the head of Cherrystone Creek and the mouth of Eyre Hall Creek. Purchased by the current owner in the early 1990s, this c. 1931 shucking house for clams and oysters has been converted to the two-story structure seen today. It is the only original shucking house site left on the creek of the seven which were operating in the 1940s and 1950s. Now, several small businesses operate nearby, including two aquaculture companies, a minnow operation, a crab potter and a rowing club. The Virginia Institute of Marine Science also uses the site periodically to perform in-depth studies about marine life and quality. The owner’s grandfather, Henry DuPont Baldwin, once owned an oyster house named Cherrystone Seafood. In Salt Grove, the owner has created a loose interpretation of that old oyster house. The structure is “shucking house” downstairs with a contemporary living area on the upper level. Contrasting materials, sophisticated colors, bespoke accompaniments and select antiques from the owner’s collection make it a comfortable space—a perfect retreat. Both levels offer vast unobstructed views of Cherrystone Creek and the setting sun. Eyre Baldwin, owner.

Brownsville
11322 Brownsville Rd., Nassawadox

From the boardwalk and trails traversing this historic seaside farm, deer, fox, warblers, blue herons, bald eagles and wild turkeys may be seen. A more elusive sighting is that of young Lucretia Upshur, whose ghostly presence is said to wander the second-floor bedrooms of Brownsville and put her cold hands on guests’ feet—only if they are virgin females. John Browne, for whom the property was named, received the patent for the 1,250-acre property in 1652. In 1806, John Upshur, a descendant of Browne, built the Federal-style, three-story brick house. The affluent farmer and merchant enhanced his home with finely detailed woodwork, including a graceful arch in the cross hall and ornamental flourishes on the parlor mantel. Upshur married and survived three of his wives. Due to the many relatives
living with him, frame additions were constructed in 1809 and 1850. At one time, the owner ran a castor-oil mill and a rose-water distillery, and shipped large amounts of corn north via chartered vessels. This pastoral property remained the home of John Upshur’s descendants until purchased by The Nature Conservancy in 1978. Brownsville is a Virginia Landmark and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Nature Conservancy, owner.

Chatham

9218 Chatham Road, Machipongo

Chatham was built in 1818 by Brigadier General Major Scarborough Pitts who named his house in honor of William Pitt, first Earl of Chatham. The nearly 300-acre farm with a mile of waterfront on Church Creek was put in the Virginia Land Trust in 2008. The views from the house, in all directions, have been preserved forever. The brick Federal-period house looks much as it did when it was built. It has four large rooms with 12-foot ceilings and wide center halls on each of the two main floors. Originally, a two-story quarters-kitchen existed on the east side, but is now in ruin. The connecting colonnade remains and serves as the kitchen. Paint analysis was carried out to determine the original colors. The elaborate wood graining, marbling and plaster work have been restored to set off the original paneling and woodwork. “Scenes of North America,” a French scenic wallpaper made by Zubcr, adorns the dining room. This wallpaper was created by hand from wood blocks carved in Alsace prior to 1830. It is complemented by a hand-painted floor cloth. A high-density, European-style vineyard of 32,000 vinifera grapevines has been planted at Chatham. Chatham Vineyards, a 5,000-case family-owned winery, opened on the property in 2005. Three generations live at Chatham. Harrison Wehner Family, owners.

Eyre Hall

3215 Eyre Hall Drive, Cheriton

Recently honored as a National Historic Landmark, this acclaimed ancestral property offers a rare picture of colonial plantation life. The key to Eyre Hall’s remarkable preservation lies in its descent through eight generations of the same family. The gambrel-roofed manor was completed in 1758 by Littleton Eyre, who lavished his home with expansive spaces, superlative woodwork and handsome furnishings. Before the end of the century, Littleton’s son and grandson had, in their turn, inherited his masterwork, adding an eastern wing and laying out a grand rear garden. Happily for historians, the three early owners were succeeded by stewards who declined to gild their classic legacy with the passing fancies of later eras. Today, Eyre Hall visitors are delighted to find that the refined but soft-spoken style of its creators remains wonderfully in place. The past also lives in the garden, where venerable crepe myrtles tower above parterres enclosed by ancient boxwood and set off by colorful mixed borders. On the west, the recently stabilized remaining walls of an early orangery add a hint of romance to the garden scene. Beyond the house and garden, broad stretches of open fields and long views over Cherrystone Creek complete the placid panorama awaiting visitors to this perennial centerpiece of the Eastern Shore tour. H. Furlong Baldwin, owner.

Edgewater, at Bay Creek

638 Carousel Place, Cape Charles

The 1,800-acre Bay Creek Complex began in 1999 has added colorful new neighborhoods to Cape Charles, a Victorian railroad town on the lower Eastern Shore peninsula. Edgewater is a contemporary coastal home situated between the sand dunes of a private beach on the Chesapeake Bay and the banks of Plantation Creek. Sunsets are enjoyed from every room in Edgewood, which was purchased as a weekend retreat in 2012. Professionally decorated in a neutral palette complementing the natural landscape, the home’s livable space is doubled with an additional 3,000 square feet of gallery porches and decks. The owners’ collection of sea glass gathered from the nearby shoreline provides points of brilliance throughout the comfortable interior. The property is steeped in historic significance as it was once part of the former estate of Littleton Tazewell, a U.S. Senator and Governor of Virginia, whose heirs sold the land in 1883 to William L. Scott, Cape Charles’ founder. This land was a battle site in 1676 when Governor Berkeley fled to the Eastern Shore during Bacon’s Rebellion. An authentic replica of the Old Plantation Flats Lighthouse situated to the southwest corner of the house showcases the property’s connection to its history. Rob and Donna Brown, owners.
Places of Interest:

Ker Place, 69 Market St., Onancock. This brick mansion built in 1799 is home to the Eastern Shore of Virginia Historical Society and is a restoration project of Garden Club of Virginia. Guided tours on the hour from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. No fee. (757) 787-8012 or www.shorehistory.org

Barrier Islands Center and Almshouse Farm, 7295 Young St., Machipongo. This museum provides photos, artifacts and written accounts of those who once called Virginia’s Barrier Islands home. Also preserved here is the most complete almshouse complex extant in the United States. (757) 678-5550 or www.barrierislandscenter.com. No fee.

Hungars Episcopal Church, 10107 Bayside Rd., Machipongo and Christ Episcopal Church, 16304 Courthouse Rd., Eastville. Christ Church was built in 1828, to replace the Magotha Bay Church, which had been the “Lower” Church of Hungars Parish in colonial days. The present Hungars Church, which lies about eight miles to the north in Bridgetown, was the “Upper” Church of the Parish. Services have been held in Hungars Parish since 1623, when the first rector, Francis Bolton, came to minister to the original settlers sent from Jamestown to collect salt. At first the Church did not have a recessed chancel. It was almost square and one step higher than the body of the Church. The original windows were all like the plain glass windows now in front. No fee. Flower arrangements suggesting a period wedding.

Pear Valley, Rt. 628, Eastville. c.1740 one-room yeoman’s cottage and a prime example of vernacular architecture. No fee.

Key to HGW Tour Symbols

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For more information visit www.vagardenweek.org
Plant Happy. Live Well.

The Barrier Islands Center invites you to an Eastern Shore not-to-be-missed event

**Art & Music on the Farm**

May 28, 2016 • 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(Saturday of Memorial Day weekend)

7793 Young Street • Machipongo, VA 23405
757.678.5636

barrierislandscenter.org • barrierislandscenter@gmail.com

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