Settled just a few years after Capt. John Smith landed at Jamestown in 1607, the Eastern Shore of Virginia is a narrow peninsula situated between the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. This year’s tour features 6 properties within close proximity to each other, including Eyre Hall, and is focused on the community of Cape Charles. The Eastern Shore lies between two marvels: a link to the mainland by one of the longest bridge-tunnels in the world to the south, and a link to outer space via a NASA rocket pad to the north. In between is a land known for the warmth of its residents, the serenity of its waterfronts, the richness of its land and, most especially, the charm of its homes – exemplifying the fine maritime, railway and agricultural heritage of the Eastern Shore.

Hosted by
The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore

Co-Chairmen
Nan Bennett
Nancy Dix
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Tour Information
Ellie Gordon (757) 710-0763
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Group Tours
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For local information, lunch options and special activities: www.esgardentours.com, www.capecharlesbythebay.com and www.esvatourism.org

Tickets: $45 pp. Single site ticket $15. Children 5-12, $20. Tickets available on tour day at Tour Headquarters, 2 Bahama Road, Cape Charles and Eyre Hall, 3215 Eyre Hall Dr. Cheriton.

Advance Tickets: $40 pp. www.vagardenweek.org. Available locally through Thursday, April 26 at all Eastern Shore Xenith 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.

Directions to the Tour Area: 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
Ticket price includes admission to the following 6 locations:

**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. Designed to capture the bay’s breezes, Bayholme has a generous 900-square-foot columned porch which wraps around three sides of the first floor and balconies on each of the second and third floors. An updated kitchen shares an open counter with the family room, and the third floor has been fixed to provide a home entertainment area. Spacious rooms are enhanced by a heterogeneous art collection including works by renowned non-objective artist Nancy Rooney, a 2,000-year-old Greek amphora, and an exquisite petit point portrayal of a Japanese dancer. Mr. and Mrs. William A. Walker, owners.

**Bayholme**
306 Bay Avenue
Cape Charles

This grand neo-classic style house was built in Cape Charles, a town which can trace its importance to an era dominated by the railroad industry, in 1914. The home’s location reveals an interesting segment of the town’s growth when dredging its harbor at the turn of the 20th century created a new expanse of land known as “sea cottage.” The house occupies an imposing position overlooking the Chesapeake Bay through 100-year-old ash trees. Its colorfully planted town garden shares a quaint back alley with its neighbors. Designed to capture the bay’s breezes, Bayholme has a generous 900-square-foot columned porch which wraps around three sides of the first floor and balconies on each of the second and third floors. An updated kitchen shares an open counter with the family room, and the third floor has been fixed to provide a home entertainment area. Spacious rooms are enhanced by a heterogeneous art collection including works by renowned non-objective artist Nancy Rooney, a 2,000-year-old Greek amphora, and an exquisite petit point portrayal of a Japanese dancer. Mr. and Mrs. William A. Walker, owners.

**6 Tazewell Avenue**
Cape Charles

Located steps from the beach, this residence was built in 1912 by W.H. Lambertson who is credited with constructing more than half the homes in the town of Cape Charles from the 1880s through the 1940s. Rich in town history and known to locals as the “Dodd House,” the home was occupied by the Horner/Dodd family across multiple generations for an impressive 84 years. With views of the Chesapeake Bay, proximity to the water and town plays a role in the home’s history. In the 1930s, the third floor was rented by a tugboat captain and his family. Visitors with a keen eye for historical detail will admire the unique original hitching post, one of the last remaining in the town of Cape Charles. The large, curved, wrap-around porch sets this property apart from other homes in town while complementing the interior and creating space for a welcoming front room window seat. Hardwood floors, paneling in the entryway and a traditional back staircase are original to this white frame home. In 2011 it underwent a significant renovation directed by the current homeowners, transforming this century-old home to a comfortable setting for modern family living. Mr. and Mrs. Will Jones, owners.

**The Wilson’s Building**
245 Mason Avenue
Cape Charles

In the center of a town reborn sits a building more than a century old, now enjoying its own renaissance. While Cape Charles was a bustling railroad town, the original Wilson’s Department Store was the tallest building on the Shore.

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the mouth of Old Plantation Creek, a site that played a significant role in Bacon’s Rebellion in 1676. Bay Creek was developed on land belonging to Littleton Waller Tazewell, the 26th governor of Virginia (1834-1836). Inside the home, a dramatic spiral staircase is the first of many outstanding architectural features guests will experience. Each room of the contemporary interior is styled differently from the next. The light-filled open floor plan is offset by striking color and fabric choices and custom woodwork. Azalea, hydrangea and rhododendron fill the grounds with color. Adirondack chairs surround a fire pit on the back patio, inviting guests to enjoy the pines, hollies and native plants that collectively frame the serene water views.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Nelson, owners.

**Tides Pointe**

125 Creekside Lane
Cape Charles

Situated on historic Old Plantation Creek in Cape Charles’ Bay Creek community, this grand brick home was built in 2014. The arched entry of an open foyer leads to living spaces highlighted by collections and pieces curated from the homeowners’ extensive world travels. Highlights are the dining room niche wall, vaulted beams of lime-washed Pecky Cypress in the family room and variety of special finishes throughout the home. Woodwork, such as the paneling in the study, originated from trees milled on site. Faux marbling on the baseboards and decorative wall finishes were painted by the owner. Works by local Eastern Shore artists are displayed throughout the home. Outside, a pierced wall serves as a framework for informal gardens designed to include an optimal number of Eastern Shore native plants, thus creating a welcoming habitat for migrating species. A herringbone brick path leads the way through a sitting garden brimming with lilies, roses and hydrangea. Mr. and Mrs. William Girtman, 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 the Garden Club of Virginia. Guided tours on the hour from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on tour day. (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 in the United States. (757) 678-5550 or www.barrierislandscenter.com

**Pear Valley, Rt. 628, Eastville.**

This c.1740 one-room yeoman’s cottage is a prime example of vernacular architecture.

**Historic Northampton County Courthouse and Court Green, 16404 Courthouse Rd., Eastville.**

One of the earliest and most complete in Virginia reflecting the continuity of government in Eastville for over 300 years.

**Cape Charles Museum Welcome Center and Historic District, 814 Randolph Ave., Cape Charles.**

Exhibits detail the history and development of Cape Charles and the surrounding region. (757) 331-1008

**Kiptopeke State Park, 3540 Kiptopeke Dr., Cape Charles.**

Explored by Capt. John Smith in 1608, offers recreational access to the Chesapeake Bay and a place to explore unique migratory bird habitat along the Atlantic flyway. www.dcr.virignia.gov/stateparkskiptopke. (757) 331-2267

**Arlington Plantation Site and Custis Tombs (1670-1749) 2157 Arlington Chase Rd., Cape Charles.**

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. www.virginia.org/Listings/HistoricSites/Custis Tombs/

**The Garden Club of Virginia thanks Eyre Hall, the perennial centerpiece of the Eastern Shore tour, for being part of Historic Garden Week for 70 years. Its extensive formal gardens are among the oldest in the United States, and planted to be at their prime in late April.**

**Hopkins and Brothers Store, 2 Market St., Onancock.**

 Owned and maintained by the Eastern Shore of Virginia Historical Society. Home of Mallards restaurant; features an exhibit of Onancock’s historic and current business community, photographs and artifacts of the store in its heyday as a maritime trading center, as well as information about Ker Place and the Society’s preservation efforts. www.shorehistory.org
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