James River Plantations-Charles City

SUNDAY-TUESDAY, APRIL 19-21, 2020, 10 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.

Open together, three historic properties and a church that dates back to the 1630’s celebrate Historic Garden Week on three consecutive days. A special combo ticket allows access to the extensive grounds, numerous outbuildings and interiors of all three sites. In addition, afternoon tea will be offered by reservation at Shirley. All are located along scenic Route 5 in Charles City between Richmond and Williamsburg. In addition, lunch is offered on all three tour days at Westover Episcopal Church, which is also open for touring. Berkeley, Shirley and Westover Plantations are Virginia and National Historic Landmarks, working plantations, private family homes and living links to our country’s past.

CONTACT INFORMATION AT TOUR SITES AND FOR BUS GROUPS

BERKELEY PLANTATION • Tammy Radcliffe (888) 466-6018 info@berkeleyplantation.com berkeleyplantation.com

SHIRLEY PLANTATION • Melissa Bjorkman (804) 829-5121 info@shirleyplantation.com

WESTOVER PLANTATION • Andrea Erda (804) 829-2882 info@westover-plantation.com westover-plantation.com

TICKETS • $60 pp for a combo ticket • $25 pp single-site admission vagardenweek.org

Combo ticket includes:
• Access to the grounds and gardens at Berkeley and guided house tours of the mansion’s first floor and basement • The grounds, gardens and eight original outbuildings at Shirley Plantation, with a self guided house tour of the first floor • Grounds and gardens at Westover Plantation, as well as a tour of the downstairs interior, which is open especially for Historic Garden Week • Tour of nearby Westover Episcopal Church

LUNCH AT WESTOVER CHURCH • 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday • $15 pp with advanced reservations Luncheon reservations in advance: • www.westoverepiscopalchurch.org and click on “HGW lunch”

SPECIAL ACTIVITY — WESTOVER PLANTATION • Local historians sharing collection of period weapons and equipment • Experience the firing of an authentic Civil War cannon on the grounds at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 and 3 p.m. on April 19-21

PARKING AVAILABLE AT EACH PLANTATION • Bus groups should make arrangements for tickets and parking prior to arrival.

DIRECTIONS TO TOUR AREA • 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 Williamsburg: Take Exit #211 (Rt. 106 south). Follow to Rt. 5. • From Williamsburg (scenic route): Take Rt. 199 west in Williamsburg. Proceed to Rt. 5.

WESTOVER PLANTATION 7000 Westover Road

One of the grandest and most beautiful of the Colonial Plantations, Westover was built in the mid-eighteenth century by the Byrd family. Long considered a premier example of Georgian architecture in America, the house’s special charm lies in its elegant yet extremely simple form and perfect proportions. Of special 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, the father of “Light Horse Harry” Lee in the great house parlor. Considered by many to be the most intact Colonial estate in America, the house is largely in its original state and features a three-floor, square-rigged or “flying” staircase in the main hall. Still lived in by direct descendants of the first generation, Edward Hill, 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. Gardens, eight original colonial outbuildings and commanding views of the James River complete this majestic setting. Owned by the Charles Hill Carter family.

Shirley Plantation 501 Shirley Plantation Road

Shirley Plantation is home to 12 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, farmed by the Hill Carter family since 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. Still lived in by direct descendants of the first generation, Edward Hill, 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. Gardens, eight original colonial outbuildings and commanding views of the James River complete this majestic setting. Owned by the Charles Hill Carter family.
of Petersburg and Richmond. 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. And because it’s a home and not a museum, visitors will see the recent transformation of the library into a new kitchen and living space, on display for the very first time. 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 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 by public taxation at the start of the Revolutionary War in 1776, followed by the War of 1812, the prejudice against the Church as an English loyalist 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. Worshipers at Westover have included Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Harrison, Tyler and Theodore Roosevelt as well as farmers, plantation owners, and their slaves.

Berkeley Plantation Garden
Tour proceeds also fund a graduate level fellowship program in landscape architecture.


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FOR CENTENNIAL EVENTS

May 13
Thomas Wolz is changing conventional wisdom about landscape architecture. His work has yielded hundreds of acres of reconstructed wetlands, reforested land, native meadows and wildlife habitat.

May 14
Paula Pryke is one of the world’s leading floral designers and an inspiration to both novices and experts. Her flower school in London provides sought after credentials for anyone serious about mastering the art of floral design.

May 14 – September 6
“An Landscape Saved: The Garden Club of Virginia at 100,” an exhibition at the Virginia Museum of History & Culture in Richmond, Virginia

For 100 years, the women of the Garden Club of Virginia have always had their way of getting things done. Be it wielding axes against unsightly billboards or making tree tags to properly name (and save) every tree on Richmond’s Capitol Square, the results are the same — a greener, more beautiful Virginia. Today, as environmental issues build, preservation and restoration are more important than ever.

Tickets & more information available at GCVirginia.org or at VirginiaHistory.org