



GARDEN CLUB

O F V I R G I N I A

HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VIRGINIA'S HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK TO BE HELD APRIL 23-30, 2022

The Nation's Only Statewide House and Garden Tour Highlights Private Gardens

(Richmond, Va.) September 2021—The Garden Club of Virginia's annual Historic Garden Week will take place April 23 through 30, 2022. As the nation's only statewide house and garden tour, this event rings in springtime by showcasing private gardens.

"Appreciation for the restorative value of gardening is not a new idea, but current circumstances have certainly made our connection to nature all the more relevant," says Tricia Garner, Chairman of Historic Garden Week. "Our tours offer a special opportunity to get outside and enjoy beautiful outdoor spaces."

The 2022 event encompasses local tours organized and hosted by Garden Club of Virginia member clubs. Nearly 200 private homes, gardens and historical sites will be open on 29 tours in communities across the state. Every year the properties opened, and the tours offered, are different, making each year a unique experience.

"In addition to the amazing properties on display, Garden Club of Virginia volunteers will design more than 2,000 spectacular floral arrangements to decorate spaces open to the public," explains Garner. "Most of the plant materials will come from their own gardens."

Each year, Historic Garden Week features a seasonal flower. The 2022 flower is the magnolia, inspired by the site that will grace the cover of the event's iconic Guidebook. The property,

“Santillane,” in Fincastle, west of Roanoke, will receive this special honor. The current owners are avid gardeners, and the c. 1795 brick Georgian is surrounded by magnificent old-growth trees. In the front are white oaks estimated to be 350 years old. It is also surrounded by chestnut and magnolia trees.

“Because the magnolia lasts for many years and is supposedly one of the first flowering plants to evolve on Earth, it symbolizes longevity, endurance, as well as durability and determination. That’s where the term steel magnolias must come from,” explains Missy Buckingham, President of the Garden Club of Virginia, the event’s sponsor. “Patience and perseverance have long been our strong suit as an organization,” she adds.

Proceeds from the statewide event fund the Garden Club of Virginia’s restoration and preservation of historic public gardens throughout Virginia, as well as a fellowship program in landscape architecture that documents significant gardens in the commonwealth. According to a study completed in 2019, the cumulative economic impact of Historic Garden Week to Virginia is an impressive \$518 million.

“We encourage everyone to visit the Historic Garden Week website at VAGardenWeek.org to plan their spring tours and learn more about the many projects throughout our beautiful state made possible because of this beloved springtime event,” Garner says.

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The Garden Club of Virginia celebrates the beauty of the land, conserves the gifts of nature and challenges future generations to build on this heritage. Historic Garden Week began in 1929.

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