

The Nation's Only Statewide House and Garden Tour Continues to Keep Virginia Beautiful

Historic Garden Week April 20-27, 2024

(RICHMOND, VA) –The owners of nearly 170 of Virginia's most beautiful private properties will open their front doors and garden gates to raise funds to restore and preserve the state's public gardens. The 2024 event encompasses 29 tours organized and hosted by 48 Garden Club of Virginia member clubs, as well as additional gardens open in Charlottesville, Upperville and Gloucester.

Prices per person range from \$25 to \$75. "Every year the properties opened for Historic Garden Week, and the tours offered are different, making each year a unique experience," Debbie Lewis, President of the Garden Club of Virginia (GCV), says.

Presented by the Garden Club of Virginia since 1929, tours typically include access to both the grounds and interiors of three to five private properties, which guests walk to or drive to in their own cars. Some tours require shuttle transportation, which is included in the ticket price. "All properties feature spectacular flower arrangements created by GCV members emphasizing seasonal, garden-grown material and plants native to Virginia," Lewis adds.

Historic Garden Week proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of nearly 50 of Virginia's historic public gardens. Additionally, this annual event funds a historic landscape research fellowship program that is building a comprehensive library of the Commonwealth's important gardens and landscapes. Since its inception in 1996, it has documented 31.

"Visitors can see stately manors, renovated farmhouses, city townhomes and waterfront villas," explains Fran Carden, the event's Chairman. "Gardens range from formal 18th-century terraces to landscaped backyards with outdoor kitchens. There are boxwood mazes, charming courtyards, and cutting gardens. Historic Garden Week offers something for everyone," Carden notes.

Visit <u>www.vagardenweek.org</u> for a complete schedule, descriptions of each of the upcoming tours and the Press Room, with print-ready images and photo credits for 2024 featured properties.

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The mission of the Garden Club of Virginia is to conserve the gifts of nature, to restore and preserve historic landscapes of the commonwealth, to cultivate the knowledge and love of gardening, and to lead future generations to build on this heritage. The member organization presents educational programs and makes awards to encourage community conservation and beautification projects. Most notably, the Garden Club of Virginia is recognized for its Historic Garden Week.