Garden Club of Virginia

Historic Garden Week

April 22 – April 29

www.vagardenweek.org

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IMAGINE

your home...
your garden...
shown around the world.
The Garden Club of Virginia welcomes you to the 84th annual Historic Garden Week

Thirty idyllic tours across the Commonwealth await you during Historic Garden Week, April 22nd - 29th, when over 200 homes and gardens will be presented. Enjoy the tour as gardens, architecture and interiors reflect enduring styles with modern traits. Historic Garden Week is more than tours. Attended by almost 30,000 annual visitors, this occasion is one of the most highly attended tourism events in the Commonwealth and, based on a recent study, has resulted in an economic impact on our state of over $425 million since its inception in 1929. Ranked last year as the 6th best flower festival by USA Today readers, visitors come from over 30 states and countries to experience the seasonal beauty found in Virginia. Hotels and restaurants anxiously await your arrival. A trademark event when generous homeowners, productive volunteers and supportive business members come together to reflect great pride in their local community, Historic Garden Week resonates across our state from estates in pastoral settings to urban dwellings with diverse period styles.

The following pages highlight this year’s local collaboration between four Richmond garden clubs, consisting of over 400 members, and the Historic Richmond Foundation which will result in 3 one-day tours in Richmond, April 26th - 28th, from 10:00am - 4:30pm. Members of these organizations have worked for over a year to lay the footprint for the path that you and other visitors will enjoy. Modernism is paired with historical in the architecture and landscape that shape these tours. The artistry and interests of the homeowners can be felt throughout their homes and gardens. The Garden Club of Virginia and Historic Richmond volunteers serve as your hostesses. Their flower arrangements complement the interior design and palette of the homes in a variety of settings, an artistic expression of these talented individuals.

The Richmond tour presents three historic neighborhoods providing a sense of an era long gone. You will enjoy a diverse collection of architectural styles and landscape from river views to a city garden. Featured for the first time, Westover Hills, an original streetcar retreat during the 1920’s, will commence your Richmond tour on Wednesday, April 26th, and is hosted by the Historic Richmond Foundation. Five homes and the Maymont Mansion with its extant garden will be showcased and provide panoramic views of the James River. The following day, seven homes and gardens in Windsor Farms, an historic Richmond neighborhood designed in 1926, will feature picturesque homes dating from the mid 18th century home, which was relocated to Windsor Farms in 1927, to the 21st century residences all connecting historical precedent with contemporary living and its accoutrements. The Richmond tour concludes Friday, April 28th, on Monument Avenue with seven homes and gardens. A National Historic Landmark district, this tour location offers early 20th century notable style homes all with inherent timeless characteristics.

The tour’s additional economic boost to our Commonwealth emanates from its proceeds which support the restoration of historic gardens throughout the Commonwealth and the funding of state park initiatives, a joint venture with Virginia State Parks commencing this year with grants supporting 12 parks. Over forty historic sites benefit from these funds with 6 being found in Richmond, from the Wilton House to St. John’s Mews in Church Hill. Chesterfield County’s Pocahontas State Park is the recent proud recipient of funds supporting the enhancement of its Discovery Center.

For more information and tickets for Historic Garden Week, please visit vagardenweek.org where a 240 page Guidebook providing photographs and details regarding parking, directions and refreshments can also be found.

We hope you will enjoy touring inspiring residences and their gardens during the 2017 Historic Garden Week in Virginia!

Margaret Irby Clement
State Chairman, Historic Garden Week 2017
Historic Richmond has Unique Partnership with Garden Club of Virginia

Historic Richmond enthusiastically applauds the Garden Club of Virginia for preserving the beauty of our Commonwealth for all to enjoy. For more than 50 years, Historic Richmond has proudly partnered with the GCV through Historic Garden Week to preserve, protect and celebrate Richmond's historic homes and gardens.

Founded in 1935, Historic Richmond is the only non-profit solely dedicated to protecting and enhancing Richmond's irreplaceable historic built environment. We have been instrumental in saving hundreds of historic structures from landmark civic buildings to the most humble of neighborhood dwellings. Our successful partnership with the GCV dates back to our early neighborhood revitalization efforts in Church Hill, where Historic Richmond began by working with one city block, called the “Pilot Block,” to show how the entire neighborhood could be renewed and restored. For more than five decades, this partnership with the GCV has blossomed as The Council of Historic Richmond has partnered with the four GCV clubs in Richmond to host garden tours highlighting historic homes and gardens in the Richmond area. In fact, The Council of Historic Richmond is the only host of a Historic Garden Week tour that is not a GCV-member club. We are honored to have the opportunity to work with and support the GCV and its area member clubs as we celebrate these historic homes and gardens and advance our complementary missions.

Richmond is a city with a soul. Richmond’s historic buildings and the landscapes that surround them reflect that soul. They reflect a substantial human investment – with a diversity of builders and users – and they connect us to our community. They connect us across the centuries to William Byrd II who stood on Libby Hill fondly recalling the land he left behind. They connect us to the fiery patriotism of Patrick Henry whose words echoed from the walls of St. John’s across Richmond’s hills and valleys to inspire a nation to liberty. They connect us to the Richmonders who mourned the deaths of their fellow citizens in the Richmond Theater Fire by erecting Monumental Church. They connect us to Maggie Walker exhorting her Jackson Ward neighbors from the pulpit of Third Street Bethel A.M.E. Church to "let us always, like St. Luke, the beloved physician, care for the sick and dying; but, at the same time, let us have a bank and factory." They connect us to the enslaved men whose hands laid the bricks of our antebellum structures, to the stone masons who carved the granite edifice of Old City Hall, to the trolley operators whose electric streetcars extended Richmond's development into the suburbs creating each of the neighborhoods we celebrate during this Historic Garden Week, to the Italian immigrants whose decorative plaster work adorns the National Theater. Above all, our historic buildings and gardens connect us to Richmond as a place – a unique and authentic place – a place with a soul.

Gardens and landscape designs are an essential component of any well-designed dwelling and streetscape. Over the years, architects and landscape designers worked hand-in-glove to design and build our city's most significant historic places. The GCV's work celebrating the beauty of the land and conserving the gifts of nature is thus a natural and important complement to our work preserving historic structures and revitalizing neighborhoods.

Proceeds from this year's Council-hosted tour will go toward Historic Richmond's mission work to preserve, protect and promote Richmond's historic buildings, neighborhoods and places. While we are proud of our accomplishments, we know there is so much more to do.

Historic Richmond is truly grateful to the homeowners who have opened their lovely homes and gardens to us, to the countless volunteers and partners who make these tours possible, to the GCV for its leadership and strong voice in conservation and beautification in Virginia, and to you for seeing the value in our city's unique and historic built environment.

Thank you!

David I. Meyers
President, Board of Trustees
Historic Richmond

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David I. Meyers
President, Board of Trustees
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Westover Hills Tour

Wednesday, March 26th
10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Westover Hills, an eclectic and vibrant neighborhood, is the near geographical center of the City and boasts one of the most spectacular panoramic views of Richmond across the James River. This aptly named “Tour with a View” includes a varied mix of styles, homes in the area range from Tudors, Capes, Colonial and Craftsman to Modern.

TICKETS
Tickets are $45 in advance, $50 the day of the tour, or $120 for a three-day pass for all Richmond tours (three-day pass only available at vagardenweek.org). Day-of tickets are available on tour day at tour headquarters only, at the corners of Prince Arthur and Riverside Drive, as well as at New Kent and Riverside.

ADVANCE TICKETS
Advance tickets may be purchased until 5 p.m. April 24 at vagardenweek.org or at Ellwood Thompson’s, Fraiche, Irresistibles, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Greenhouse II, Libbie Market, The Shops at 5807, Sneed’s Nursery & Garden Center, Strange’s Florist Greenhouse & Garden Center, Tweed and Williams and Sherrill.

TOUR PROPERTIES
5005 Riverside Drive, 5107 Riverside Drive, 5315 Riverside Drive, 5509 Riverside Drive, 5514 Riverside Drive.

LUNCH
A catered lunch will be available to purchase on the day of the tour for $15 per person, and will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. across the street from 5514 Riverside Drive, on a bluff overlooking the James River. Quantities are limited; first come, first served.

REFRESHMENTS
Complimentary refreshments will be served at tour headquarters.

5315 Riverside Drive
Richard and Katherine Wintsch, owners

A house in an established neighborhood, close to downtown, with a breathtaking view — who wouldn't fall in love? Richard and Katherine Wintsch did when they saw the First Regency-style house at 5315 Riverside Drive. They'd lived in the Fan for one year and Glen Allen for three, but Westover Hills felt like home.

From their windows, they can see the river and the woods, Dogwood Dell and the Carillon, Richard says, even when the trees are leafed out in summer. “It's beautiful. We're very fortunate,” he says.

The Wintsches purchased the house in 2008. They took out one wall between the dining room and the kitchen, and added a walk-through custom bookcase. Visible Proof’s renovation of the kitchen, with Carrara marble counters, a herringbone marble backsplash, and a Viking stove, won Richmond’s 2016 interior design excellence award.

Apart from those changes and some cosmetic updates, however, much about the house is as it was left by the previous owners, who lived there for 53 years. The Wintsches have tried to preserve the character of the house as much as possible, Richard says.

The landscape needed some work to allow the family to enjoy the outdoors together. The lot was small and the back yard “just miniature,” Richard says. One enormous tree claimed all the space and sun — and “we didn't realize how much property we had until we got rid of that big tree,” he says. Their landscape architect, Steve Koprowski, then designed a garden of crape myrtles, azaleas and rhododendrons, and native plants. A bluestone terrace surrounds the pool.
Situated high on Riverside Drive, with a sweeping view of the James River, the Carillon, passing trains and the trees below, this house essentially named itself: Point of View.

This 1957 house was for nearly 50 years the home of philanthropists Sara Belle and Neil November. The current owner and her husband snapped up the house the same day it was listed for sale. "Are you going to raze it?" Sara Belle asked wistfully. Not at all, the new owners assured her: They weren’t traditional-architecture people, and they loved the Novembers’ California ranch house.

It did require substantial renovations, which the new owners undertook by gutting first the inside, then redoing the outside. The kitchen has honed marble and Silestone countertops, as well as bamboo cabinetry and travertine floors. The lower-level entertainment room and the bluestone patio were added last.

Interior designer Sheron Nicodemus created a “soft Asian theme” for the house, meant to evoke peace and calm. Angelfish, striped clown loaches and other tropical fish swim in the 135-gallon tank that stands between the den and the living room.

Outside, more than 1,500 azaleas bloom pink, purple and white, each one planted by the owner’s husband, who was an enthusiastic gardener. Many of the daffodils came from the Pentagon, where the bulbs are replaced each year.

When the renovations were complete, the owners held an open house attended by those who had worked on it: Carl Max Lindner, Jr., the original architect; Dan Ensminger, the architect for the renovations; Nicodemus and others. "All these beautiful ideas all came together," the current owner says.

Throughout all the improvements and renovations, the current owners also kept in touch with Sara Belle and Neil. It’s not only the view that makes Point of View special, the current owner says; it’s the Novembers’ great love for their house.
When David and Kelsey Salley's home was nearly complete, an appraiser came to make a final assessment. "I need to know if you have marble from Italy," he said.

No, they told him. No Italian marble. They tried to source everything from as close to Richmond as possible. "Well, I just want to know if there's anything special about this house," the appraiser said.

"Asking me that question right now is like asking me if there's anything special about my child," interjected their builder, Charlie Tenser of Tenser Haus Construction.

The Salleys, too, adore everything about their newly built Craftsman at 5509 Riverside Drive, even though it was a project they never intended to undertake.

The Salleys bought their first house in Westover Hills, an "adorable little Cape Cod," in 2003. It didn't take them long to realize they never wanted to leave the neighborhood, even when Kelsey became pregnant with their second child and the Cape began to feel a little small.

On a stretch of Riverside Drive stood three adjacent houses with views of the river, and the Salleys always thought they might like to live there. When the middle house went on the market, however, they discovered it was an old, poorly maintained tri-level that reeked of cigarette smoke. It sat on the market for a month before David said, "I can't take it anymore. I have to go look at it."

Kelsey wasn't interested, so David went with a friend. He discovered that from the house's rear windows, he could see the river, the train bridge and the downtown skyline. "You look at that view, and you don't really care what the house looks like," Kelsey says. In 2009, they bought it, and lived there happily for six years.

Yet the house wasn't quite right. It wasn't energy-efficient. It still, despite heroic efforts and many layers of Kilz primer, occasionally smelled of smoke. And three architects advised against building an addition, saying it wouldn't work well with the layout.

In the end, the Salleys made a drastic decision: They would knock the house over and start from scratch.

510 Architects worked with the couple for a full year on the plans for the new home. The Salleys considered designs both contemporary and traditional before finding the perfect balance, which Kelsey calls "contemporary Craftsman."

It took just two hours to demolish the old house in August 2015. It took 16 months to build the new one. And the Salleys intend to live there for the rest of their lives. Rooms for their three children are on the second story, while the couple occupies a first-floor master. A guest suite is on the lower level.

One notable feature is the Eco Firebox, a two-story, clean-burning fireplace with ducts that radiates heat long after the fire goes out. Burning eight logs will heat the house for 12 to 24 hours. The house also has geothermal heating and cooling. And just for fun, there's a fire pit in the back, Kelsey says: "so you can sit and roast marshmallows, looking at the view."
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Windsor Farms Tour

Thursday, April 27th
10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Planned in 1926 to resemble an English village, Windsor Farms retains much of its original character. The homes and gardens on this tour vary in age and style – from a 1745 Virginia plantation house moved to Windsor Farms in the 1920s, to a shingle and stone house built in recent years. This tour includes access to the extensive grounds and gardens of Tuckahoe Plantation, Thomas Jefferson’s boyhood home.

TICKETS
Tickets are $45 in advance, $50 the day of the tour, or $120 for a three-day pass for all Richmond tours (three-day pass only available at vagardenweek.org). Day-of tickets are available on tour day at tour headquarters only, at the Tuckahoe Woman’s Club, 4215 Dover Road.

ADVANCE TICKETS
Advance tickets may be purchased until 5 p.m. April 24 at vagardenweek.org or at Ellwood Thompson’s, Fraiche, Irresistibles, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Greenhouse II, Libbie Market, The Shops at 5807, Sneed’s Nursery & Garden Center, Strange’s Florist Greenhouse & Garden Center, Tweed and Williams and Sherrill.

TOUR PROPERTIES
3907 Sulgrave Road, 4204 Sulgrave Road, 309 Stockton Lane, 307 Stockton Lane, 307 St. David’s Lane, 207 Hathaway Road, Tuckahoe Plantation - 12601 River Road.

LUNCH
Lunches by Kitchenette are $15 and will be served outdoors, weather permitting, in the walled garden of the Tuckahoe Woman’s Club from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

REFRESHMENTS
Complimentary refreshments will be served from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the guest house at 307 Stockton Lane.

A happy peony lives almost forever — up to a century, in some cases. The Krinkled White peonies in Kate and Trent Kerns’s garden must be very happy indeed, having bloomed there for more than 60 years.

“They’re exquisite,” Kate Kerns says. “They’re my favorite.” Not everything about the Gillette-designed garden has stayed the same, however. Depredations of a growing deer and rabbit population forced the Kerns to rethink the original plantings, so landscape designer Susan Robertson restored the garden with resistant plants.

The Kerns admired the handsome, Clarence Huff-designed Colonial Revival for years before they moved in. While helping the grandson of the previous owner move some furniture, Trent Kerns had fallen hard for the house’s gracious floor plan and elegant details. “If it ever comes on the market, we’d be interested,” they told the owners — and in 2004, they bought the house.

The Kerns combined the breakfast room, butler’s pantry to create one open, welcoming kitchen space. They also combined two first-floor bedrooms to create a master bedroom and sitting room, and opened the back wall of the living room to improve flow to the sun room. Otherwise, the house’s original layout and features remain, including the hand-painted Gracie wallpaper with flowering branches and birds.

“It’s a very easy house to live in,” Kate Kerns says, with bright corners to sit and read, and a sun porch that affords a great view of the double-sized lot. She’s hoping the white peonies make their appearance for Historic Garden Week — but, she says, “it’s out of our hands.”
When Kay and William B. Tyler moved to 4204 Sulgrave Road 12 years ago, William’s mother bestowed her favorite treasures on them. She gave them family portraits by Richmond artist John Court. She gave them the grand piano she’d played when she was a child. She and famed interior designer Victoria Jamgochian selected beautiful pieces for the house.

Kay Tyler, a professional home stager, loved it all. “Everything you see in my house, where it was placed, is because of her,” she says of Jamgochian.

William B. Tyler is the great-great-grandson of President John Tyler, and so the Tylers also have many family artifacts. On the walls, visitors will see letters signed by President Tyler, as well as a Parks Duffey painting of Sherwood Forest, the president’s Charles City County home.

An open white kitchen was added by the previous owners. “It’s my favorite place, and the reason I fell in love with the house,” Kay says. A bay window looks onto the garden, where Kay, an avid gardener, spends many happy hours.

“I love getting my hands dirty,” she says. She still drives by the family’s old house on Stuart Avenue to check on the cherry, crape myrtle and dogwood trees she planted.

Kay worked with landscape designer Susan Robertson to update the Sulgrave Road house’s gardens with hydrangeas and boxwoods. On the side of the house where the kitchen entrance is found, she has planted a “Little Gem” dwarf magnolia, a climbing magnolia and morning glories, as well as a border of peonies along the driveway.

Kay adores her serene and shaded back yard. A space in the back is surrounded by laurels, she explains, “and they’re so tall and so large, it’s like we have our own private oasis.”
The Council of Historic Richmond is pleased to unveil the recent renovation of the east stairwell of Monumental Church. Since 1983, Historic Richmond has owned and worked diligently to preserve Monumental Church as one of Richmond’s premier architectural landmarks.
Historic Garden Week

Monument Avenue Tour

Friday, April 28th
10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

A National Historic Landmark District, Monument Avenue is regarded as one of the most beautiful boulevards in America. Grandly scaled historic monuments punctuate expanses of lawn within a double-allée of trees to form a park-like setting. This walking tour highlights the work of William Lawrence Bottomley and other noted architects. The Executive Mansion, the oldest governor’s mansion in the United States built and still used as a home, is also open for tours and is a short drive east of the tour area.

TICKETS
Tickets are $45 in advance, $50 the day of the tour, or $120 for a three-day pass for all Richmond tours (three-day pass only available at vagardenweek.org). Day-of tickets are available on tour day at tour headquarters at The Branch Museum of Architecture, 2501 Monument Ave., as well as at the east end of the tour area, near Lee Circle.

ADVANCE TICKETS
Advance tickets may be purchased until 5 p.m. April 24 at vagardenweek.org or at Ellwood Thompson’s, Fraiche, Irresistibles, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Greenhouse II, Libbie Market, The Shops at 5807, Sneed’s Nursery & Garden Center, Strange’s Florist Greenhouse & Garden Center, Tweed and Williams and Sherrill.

TOUR PROPERTIES
1800, 1815, 1828, 1839, 2301, and 2320 Monument Avenue, Virginia Executive Mansion - 1111 East Broad Street.

LUNCH
Lunches by Kitchenette are $15 and will be served outdoors, weather permitting, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design.

REFRESHMENTS
Complimentary refreshments will be served from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the garden at 2320 Monument Ave.
Carole Conner lives on an island.

That’s how it feels, anyway, because her late Georgian house stands on the northwest corner of Lee Circle, facing the Robert E. Lee monument. “The house is oriented to the monument, and not to the streetscape,” Conner explains.

Her husband, Douglas W. Conner, lived in a nearby Fan apartment while attending law school at the University of Richmond, and “he always liked the house,” Conner recalls. One summer, while she was on vacation in Virginia Beach, she saw the house advertised for sale and mentioned it to him. “Five minutes later, he called and said, ‘You have to come home.’”

They went to look at the Monument house immediately. The price was a little out of reach, she says, but “we were able to make a go of it.” The “island” became her husband’s law office and a home for their four children.

When Conner was having the kitchen sink replaced, the workmen found several silver butter knives that had been lost over the years. She called the previous owner, Mrs. Jeffries, and they became acquainted. She had excellent taste in decorating, Conner says approvingly, and she hasn’t changed too much: “It’s pretty much now as it was then.”

The dining room retains the original Lloyd Chinese Chippendale wallpaper; the living room paper was damaged by water, so replacement panels were hand-copied from the original. Paintings of the Lee monument hang throughout the house, some gifted to the Conners by plein air painters who stayed with them.

Conner’s favorite room is the one that used to serve as her husband’s office. It’s a cozy, warm room with wood paneling that looks out onto the circle, and friends join her for mah jongg there every Wednesday. “We’re sort of addicted to it,” she says.

One notable feature is the ironwork on the east and west porches. Conner was told one panel came from the New York City house of actress Lillie Langtry, an 1800s siren who famously seduced the Prince of Wales. Another panel was made in Richmond to match. “All this wrought iron, I think, is beautiful,” Conner says.

1800 Monument Avenue
Mrs. Douglas W. Conner, owner
Jim Buzzard knew exactly what he wanted: a new house with an acre of land, a first floor master and a garage.

In the end, “he got a garage,” Susan Snyder says with a laugh. The couple never intended to buy a historic home in the city. But when they walked into the Colonial Revival house at 1828 Monument Avenue, they were stunned to discover what looked like “a brand new house in a 1907 shell,” Snyder says. “The details were just amazing.”

The previous owner had purchased the building, then subdivided into six apartments, out of foreclosure. It was meticulously restored to match architect Claude Knox Howell’s original vision, creating an open, surprisingly modern-feeling home. Even the fireplace mantels, removed by a previous owner, were recreated by master craftsmen. Most visitors can’t tell which are original and which are restored.

Enchanted by the bright, spacious interior and soaring ceilings, Snyder and Buzzard knew they’d found their home. “I still walk around and say, ‘Wow,’” Snyder says.

They faced one decorating challenge, however: “I’m a contemporary person, and he’s very traditional,” Snyder explains. They worked with interior designer Janie Molster to create a harmonious blend of old and new. In the foyer you’ll see an antique Biedermeier secretary and Wassily chairs; the dining room pairs a Henkel Harris table and a contemporary chandelier.

One of Snyder’s favorite touches is the wallpaper in the dining room, a silvery metallic grasscloth reminiscent of oystershell. “It changes all day, depending on the light that’s on it,” she says.

The couple enjoys collecting contemporary art. Visitors may note the large painting by Karen Blair in the living room and, outside, a bronze sculpture by Jacques Le Bescond that Snyder and Buzzard purchased at Art Basel in Miami.

“We’ve taken this house and made it our own,” Snyder says.
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Historic Garden Week Funds Important Restoration Projects

By Karen Cauthen Ellsworth, Director of Historic Garden Week

“The landscape of Virginia would look very different without the efforts of the Garden Club of Virginia,” Lynn McCashin, Executive Director of the Garden Club of Virginia explains. Since the first restoration in 1929 at Kenmore in Fredericksburg, the Garden Club of Virginia has used proceeds from its signature event, Historic Garden Week, to fund the restoration and preservation of more than 40 of Virginia’s historic public gardens, a research fellowship program and a new initiative with Virginia State Parks.

“The Garden Club of Virginia was instrumental in establishing these parks, also in 1929, the year of the first Historic Garden Week,” she continues. “Part of our mission is to conserve the gifts of nature and challenge future generations to build on this heritage. The Garden Club of Virginia is synonymous with garden restoration in the commonwealth and we are so proud of the projects we have completed right here in our capital,” McCashin notes.

“The impact of the work of the Garden Club of Virginia in the Richmond area is especially vital,” Meg Clement, Historic Garden Week State Chairman, points out. A restoration-in-progress at the Edgar Allen Poe Museum and a recently announced grant to improve Visitor Center displays at Pocahontas State Park are two new local projects. This year, the following three restoration sites in the city will be open for Garden Week:

The Executive Mansion on Capitol Square, A National Historic Landmark, it is the oldest-occupied governor’s residence in the United States. The East Garden, designed and installed in the mid 1950s by Charles Gillette, was restored in 1999-2000 by the Garden Club of Virginia. In Margaret Bemiss’ book about the Garden Club of Virginia restorations from 1975 to 2007, Historic Virginia Gardens, she describes the garden as a “private refuge for the governor’s family and their guests; and a source of pride not only to the members of the Garden Club of Virginia, whose statewide work rescued it and brought it back to life, but to all the citizens of Virginia.” The mansion is open in conjunction with the Friday, April 28 Richmond tour, and will be decorated with spectacular seasonal arrangements created by members of the Richmond clubs.

Kent-Valentine House, 12 East Franklin Street. Designed by Isaiah Rogers, a New England architect, in 1845 for Mr. and Mrs. Horace Kent, this stately mansion was modified and enlarged by Mr. and Mrs. Granville Gray Valentine in 1904. The GCV bought the home in 1971 shortly after it received its historic designation. “In this rescue of a threatened landmark and its transformation from family residence to organization headquarters, the Garden Club of Virginia demonstrated its commitment to the principle of adaptive reuse as a lynchpin of historic preservation,” describes author and former member of the Garden Club of Virginia restoration committee, Margaret Bemiss. The Kent-Valentine House is open to the public April 26, 27 and 28 from 10 a.m. to noon during Historic Garden Week only. There is no admission charge.

Maymont, 1700 Hampton Street. Overlooking the James River, the mansion is an example of the opulent style of the American Gilded Age. The Garden Club of Virginia restored the ornamental lawn surrounding the mansion from 1996-98. It now features a shrub labyrinth restored walkway, specimen trees and rose arbors. The Italian Garden contains parterres and a romantic pergola; the Japanese Garden includes a dramatic 45-foot waterfall. In 2006, the Garden Club of Virginia replaced an allée of elms that had lined the driveway. Built by the Dooley family in 1893, the extensive property was given to the city to be turned into a park and museum when they died. Located across the James River from the Westover Hills neighborhood featured on the Wednesday, April 26 tour, Maymont is waiving admission that day for HGW ticket holders, and is hosting a special walking tour by Maymont’s Horticulture Director, Peggy Singlemann for an additional $20 per person.

Ashland Tour

Saturday, April 22nd
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Advance tickets: $25
Day of tour: $30

Visitors will wind along Mount Hermon Road in scenic Hanover County, north of Richmond, through time - past into present day - on this relaxing driving tour. Highlights include Slash Christian Church, built in 1729, Virginia’s oldest continuously occupied frame church, as well as a working alpaca farm where the historic house is open for touring. The residence of a popular farmer’s market vendor with a meticulous vegetable garden, plus newer properties filled with modern character and charm, are also featured. Special activities made for a full day in the countryside.

Petersburg Tour

Tuesday, April 25th
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Advance tickets: $30
Day of tour: $35

This eclectic tour features properties from within the Historical Districts and those with connections to the PBS series “Mercy Street”, including the grand Federal style home, Centre Hill; a property with a hand built furniture workshop in the colonial style; and the home of the hat makers for the series. The tour also includes a 1763 Georgian built for the founder of Petersburg, an 1823 Greek Revival, and a former Designer Home whose garden features mostly native plants. The tour concludes with three commercial buildings that form a courtyard artist’s retreat.
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