



The Ivy Anchor

The Hampton Roads Garden Club Newsletter

March 2024

March is a month that is confusing at best! One day it is cold and rainy, another day it is warm and sunny and then there have been snowstorms in March that have left us all in a quandary as to when spring will arrive! The daffodils in my yard are blooming which is always a wonderful sign that hopefully spring is just around the corner. And let's not forget that the groundhog has predicted an early spring!

March brings breezes,
loud and shrill,
To stir the dancing
daffodil.

~ Excerpt from "The Garden Year" by Sarah Coleridge



March also begins the build up to Historic Garden Week in April. Tickets for HGW went on sale on the GCV website on February 20th and the HGW Guidebooks are beginning to arrive at retailers around the area. At our meeting on March 5th you will receive your Guidebook and will visit the home that you have been assigned to do a flower arrangement. Be sure to bring your camera and measuring tape in order to have all the tools you will need to create your masterpiece! We have so many fantastic arrangers in our club that it is always a treat to see the wonderful ideas that come to life in these beautiful homes.

Our bus trip to Charleston is fast approaching in March and the bus committee is hard at work making plans for a fun filled four days in one of the most beautiful cities in the country. Not to mention all the great restaurants and shopping that Charleston has to offer, we will also be touring some of the prettiest homes and gardens in the city. We still have 4 spaces available on the bus so throw caution to the wind and come join the fun, you don't want to miss it!

A sure sign that spring is on its way is the GCV Daffodil Show on March 27th at VA Wesleyan University in VA Beach. What a wonderful opportunity for us to see a beautiful flower show in our own backyard. And nothing brightens your mood better than seeing hundreds of beautiful yellow and white daffodils smiling back at you and announcing that spring has indeed arrived!

Mary Johnson



March Meeting Notice

Date: March 5, 2024

Time: 9:30 Social; 10:00 Business Meeting

Location: Poquoson Community Center, 49 Odd Road, Poquoson, VA 23662

Program: Business Meeting; Visit HGW Homes

Voting Meeting: We will be voting on the Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award 2024 Finalists. If you will not be at the meeting please send in your absentee ballot with your choice.

Hostesses: Sandy Parks & Molly Trant

RSVP: If you cannot attend the meeting, please send your regrets to Sue Morgan at marnee757@hotmail.com



The 2024 Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award Finalists

The Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award is given to a club to fund implementation of a conservation project that will serve as a catalyst for community action. It is a monetary award for natural resource conservation or environmental protection within the Commonwealth. [Please read over the information about this year's finalists and be prepared to vote at the March meeting.](#)

The Elizabeth River Garden Club: Eco-Landscape the Wilderness at Hoffler

Creek Wildlife Preserve

The Elizabeth River Garden Club has partnered with Hoffler Creek Wildlife Foundation for 25 years to conserve a unique 142-acre urban wildlife preserve in the city of Portsmouth. Myriad native wildlife is supported by this natural oasis. Outdoor enthusiasts, birders, nature photographers, students, researchers, and even those leery of wild spaces have free access to walking trails and scenic views six days per week, year round. In recent years, ERGC funded a pollinator garden of native shrubs and perennials at the gates to the preserve. The garden beautifies the entrance and provides food for pollinators. Butterflies flutter amongst the flowers, bees buzz about, and birds feast on seeds. However, the entrance to the trail system, an old road, regularly floods and its openness undermines the surrounding natural habitat. The Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award will fund the planting of native trees and shrubs to absorb rainwater, naturalize the area, and enhance wildlife habitat. Benches and plant identification signs will provide an immersive and educational experience for all visitors, especially those with disabilities, or unable to navigate the trails. This eco-landscape garden will create a sanctuary accessible to the public in the heart of the metropolis of Hampton Roads.

Gabriella Garden Club: Preserving Downtown Danville's Urban Oasis: the HOME Pocket Park Transformation

HOME Pocket Park is in a rapidly growing area of Danville's downtown district. The site previously housed an abandoned motel and when torn down was considered for the location of a parking garage. The space currently displays the iconic "HOME" sign, once part of a larger sign from the former Dan River Fabrics building. The land, however, void of anything except a few

shrubs was under-utilized, lacking appeal and functionality. Gabriella Garden Club embarked on an ambitious project for GCV's Centennial Anniversary—forming partnerships with community organizations and launching a funding campaign to transform HOME Pocket Park into an extraordinary community resource and to protect this last downtown green space from future development. Once completed, the park will include a meandering brick paver walkway, bench seating, and more than 250 newly planted shrubs, flowers, and trees. The Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award will fund the planting of beds incorporating native flowers, trees, and shrubs to stop erosion at the back of the park, retaining walls to allow for soil conservation, and an irrigation rain sensor to mitigate water waste. Gabriella Garden Club is committed to transforming Home Pocket Park into a natural respite making all its visitors feel at HOME and saving an important green space in the heart of Danville.

Hillside Garden Club: Access to Nature and Outdoor Learning on the Cosby Trail

Camp Kum-Ba-Yah Nature Center began as a summer day camp in 1950 where generations of children from all city neighborhoods have attended over the last 70-plus years. In 2021, the 42-acre property was placed in a conservation easement and the camp became the only nature center in the city expanding its mission to provide year-round natural space and environmental education for the entire community. The 1.2-mile Cosby Trail is newly opened to the public and circumnavigates the property with accessibility to local neighborhoods from three entrances. The trail lacks a comprehensive marking system and identification of flora and fauna that would be of interest to hikers of this urban forest. Way-markers will encourage community visitors and school groups (including an adjacent 500-student elementary school) unfamiliar with hiking in the woods and invite currently hesitant residents to use the trail. The Bessie Bocock Carter Conservation Award will fund interpretative signs identifying trees, plants, and habitat to promote familiarity and appreciation for wooded, natural areas and conservation in a city with limited and dwindling outdoor space. KBY is the location of Lynchburg's Historic Garden Week Tour "marketplace" and children's activities so the Way-marker project will be featured to HGW visitors.

February Meeting with GCV President Debbie Lewis

Last month our membership meeting was held jointly with members of the Huntington Garden Club. We were honored to have as our guest speaker, GCV President Debbie Lewis. Debbie is the 52nd President of GCV following six years on the GCV's Board of Directors. Debbie is a member of the Garden Study Club in Martinsville and served as President of her club from 2012-14. During her two-year term as GCV President, which ends in May, Debbie has focused her time on implementing the GCV strategic plan, *The Path Forward*, with efforts to educate and expand opportunities for our members. She recognizes the importance of making GCV's information and programs more accessible to all members by updating communication tools. Under her leadership GCV has implemented Cultivating Conversations for all members to access GCV informational programming, has created the Green Arrow III history of GCV as an on-line site for all to easily view, and is currently remaking the GCV website for better navigation and access by members and the public. As President, Debbie has had a strong vision for GCV's future. After the meeting, a small luncheon for Debbie was held at the home of Donna Herbert that was hosted by our HRGC Board.



GCV President Debbie Lewis speaks to members of the Hampton Roads and Huntington Garden Clubs at the Mariners' Museum.



Welcoming Debbie Lewis is (L to R) Allison Clock, GCV Horticulture Chair and HRGC member; Becky Fitchett, HGC President; Debbie Lewis; Mary Johnson, HRGC President; Katie Spencer, District 3 Representative on the GCV Board and HGC member; and Ann Gordon Evans, GCV Past President and member of HGC.



Attending the luncheon are Debbie Lewis, Ann Gordon Evans, Katie Spencer, Home Hostess Donna Herbert, Mary Johnson, Allison Clock, Becky Fitchett, and Carla Rice, VP of HGC.

Thank You Notes



During GCV President Debbie Lewis' visit with the Hampton Road and Huntington Garden Clubs, we provided a dinner for Debbie at Berret's Seafood Restaurant in Williamsburg and a luncheon after the meeting at the home of Donna Herbert. We have received several thank you notes this month about those events. In the interest of saving time at the meeting, here are excerpts from each of them.

From GCV President Debbie Lewis: Dear Mary and Members of HRGC, I cannot begin to thank you enough for the gracious and most generous hospitality during my visit with the Hampton Roads and Huntington Garden Clubs. It was wonderful to hear about the projects and programs in which your club is involved and to see the energy and enthusiasm of your members. I'm so impressed by what you all have accomplished in your community and your club's engagement with GCV initiatives and events. I'll always remember the wonderful lunch with the leaders of both clubs at Donna's beautiful home. Your Executive Committee are talented and fun ladies—The best!! I am truly grateful to all of you for that special time together in a remarkable setting with friends. Your continued generosity with a donation to the Annual Fund in my honor touched me, and I thank you very much. Fondly, Debbie

From GCV Past President and Huntington GC member Ann Gordon Evans: Dear Mary and Members of the HRGC, Thank you so very much for including me in the luncheon for Debbie Lewis. I loved being with all of you and catching up with Debbie on her GCV presidency. Please thank your board members who prepared and served the most delicious lunch. You all are such a talented and fun group to be with. Much love, Ann Gordon

From GCV District 3 Representative and Huntington GC member Katie Spencer: Dear Mary and the Hampton Roads Garden Club, What a beautiful day on the river! What a treat it was to be able to visit with Debbie Lewis and the garden club gals at Donna's fabulous and warm home. The menu was delicious and everything was perfectly elegant! As always it is so nice to be surrounded by such smart women who share the passion for all things GCV! Thank you again for a special day! Katie

From Huntington GC President Becky Fitchett, Dear Mary and members of the HRGC, Thank you so much for a wonderful joint meeting with Debbie Lewis. You all were gracious hostesses and I know Debbie appreciated all the personal touches you provided. Dinner at Berret's was so special and the luncheon at Donna Herbert's home was wonderful. Thank you so much for including me. Becky

From GCV Executive Director Andrea Butler: Dear Mary, Thanks to you and your members for all that you do to support the GCV. Debbie Lewis said that you and your members were wonderful hosts for her recent visit! Wishing you and your club my best, Andrea

From GCV Annual Fund Chairman Kelly Johnson: Dear Mary and members of the Hampton Roads Garden Club, I want to express my gratitude for your club's annual fund donation made in honor of Katie Wright Thomas (editor's note-Katie was our speaker for our Bloom & Grow event). I know she will be delighted to learn of your generosity and thoughtfulness. Thank you for your support and being a valued part of our Garden Club family. Kelly



Mary Dame Broad-HRGC President 1996-98

We were all saddened to hear the news of the passing of beloved Associate Member Mary Dame Broad. She held many positions in the HRGC and was President of the club from 1996-1998. Mary Dame was a friend and mentor to all and she was instrumental in helping our members with club arrangements for GCV flower shows, always willing to give advice on what the judges would be looking for in each different style of arrangement. Her friendship to our members and her contributions to our club are numerous and she will be remembered fondly by all of us who knew her.

Maureen Hutchens and Midge Eason both knew Mary Dame well and have shared their memories of her with us. From Maureen: "It would be rare to encounter an individual as glowingly delightful as Mary Dame Broad. She was smart, she was kind, she shared her talents and her enthusiasm with all of us. As President and Vice-President of HRGC back at the turn of the century, she and I attended several statewide GCV events together and I can assure you all that Mary Dame knew EVERYONE! Her iconic laugh and bubbly personality were unique and endearing. She will truly be missed." And from Midge: "Mary Dame was one of those very special people you thought would live forever. She was so smart, engaging, positive, caring of others, and always laughing. I do not think she ever spoke a negative word. If she had a vice, it was her heavy footed driving:) We have lost a dear friend."

Mary Dame's Obituary:

Mary Dame Broad passed from this world to her heavenly home surrounded by her family at her home on February 9, 2024. The daughter of the late Landon and Mary Hunter Stubbs, Mary Dame was born in Newport News on May 10, 1928. She attended Sweet Briar College and graduated with a BA in music. She and her late husband Douglas C. Broad lived in Hampton where they raised their two children, Doug and Susan on the beautiful waters of Hampton Roads. Boating was a favorite pastime for the family whether it was on "Captain's Dame" or later onboard "Free Again." Mary Dame enjoyed snow skiing with her husband and they traveled throughout the country to ski on fresh powder with family and friends.

She remained active in her church and social activities until the last weeks before her death. An avid bridge player and wordsmith, Mary Dame enriched the lives of those around her with her quick wit, sharp mind and one of a kind laugh. She brought so much joy to everyone around her and never complained. Mary Dame lived every day to the fullest sharing her joyful spirit and smiles with everyone she encountered. She brightened the lives of her family whom she cherished as well as her countless friends from Trinity United Methodist, Pembroke Garden Club, the Kecoughtan Literary Circle and her bridge group.

Mary Dame was preceded in death by her husband of over 50 years, Douglas C. Broad and her sister, Anne Fitzsimmons. She is survived by her son Doug Broad, Jr.(Beverly) of Rocky Mt., NC and daughter Susan Cofer (Bill) of Virginia Beach; grandchildren Douglas Broad (Candi), Rachel Broad Mayer (Andrew), Landon Cofer (Tori) and three great grandchildren, Zoe and Finn Broad and Tenley Cofer. She looked forward to welcoming her fourth great grandchild in May. She also leaves behind her brother in law Bud Fitzsimmons and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mary Dame was the light at every family gathering and she remained connected to every branch of her family tree. The family will receive visitors at R. Hayden Smith Funeral Home on Friday, February 16 from 6:00-8:00. A celebration of her life will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 29th Street, Newport News, on Saturday, February 17 at noon. The burial will be private. The family requests that memorial gifts be made to either a charity of your choice or the Garden Club of Virginia. May her love of flowers live on in the lovely gardens of Virginia. Arrangements by R. Hayden Smith Funeral Home, Hampton. www.rhaydensmith.com.



Charleston Bus Trip

The bus trip to Charleston is fast approaching and we are excited to get those wheels rolling down the highway! Due to some cancellations, we have 4 seats available on the bus. Don't you want to join us for the fun! Do you know someone who would like to go and explore Charleston with us? Please think about how you can help us fill those seats so our club trip will be a successful fundraiser!

As a reminder to all Active members the bus trip is a Ways & Means event, so each member is responsible for signing up to provide food for the trip or elect to pay \$25 towards expenses. If you

did not get a chance to sign up on the list, you may do so at the March meeting.

If you signed up to provide food, please drop it off at Becky Tench's home on Sunday, March 17th from 2-4 pm. Becky's home address is 206 Riverside Drive, Newport News, VA 23606. If you have any questions about the trip, please contact Becky or Mindy Beasley. The bus committee thanks all of our members for helping to make the trip a success.



Galentine's Sip & Shop

What a wonderful evening all the Galentines had at our Fundraising Committee's Sip & Shop on the evening of February 8th at the Sister Cities Office in City Center in Newport News. Our HRGC members outdid themselves with the items that they donated for the silent auction. There was something for everyone, beautiful art, jewelry, homemade baked goods, gift certificates, baskets filled to the brim, flower arrangements and lovely potted plants. Our fantastic committee members provided wine, food, a raffle for lovely unique flowers as well as a fun photo opportunity. Not only did we have a large turnout of members but they brought their friends who we enjoyed meeting and trying to out bid each other!

Thank you everyone who attended the event and brought a friend! Thank you to Chairman Joanna Bigley and her committee members Mary Diggs, Ann Moir, Teresa Robinson and Milly Wassum for a fantastic fun event enjoyed by all. Stay tuned for a final report from the committee at the March meeting.



Beautiful decorations and flower arrangements!



Delicious food!



A chocolate fountain was a fun dessert.



Julie LoCicero and Maryann Ayer



Donna Herbert and her guest Susan Goetz



Karan Mulkey and Sue Morgan



12-day of Christmas oyster ornaments donated by Stacy Queensberry



A beautiful flower painting by Gay Huffman



The bidding was fierce!



A landscape painting by Marsha Amory and Bamboo flatware donated by Dale Banning



An oyster painting by Jane Quinn



A lovely Lenten Rose painting by Amine Morgan



A "Delicious and Delightful" basket full of goodies and a homemade cake in a beautiful cake stand donated by Donna Herbert and Becky Tench.



Throwing some shade are Allison Hund, Mary Johnson, Sherry Maynard and Sidney Jordan as they model their designer sunglasses they purchased!



Two gorgeous orchids in a beautiful container donated by Dale Banning



Rita Quinn and Kristin Barnes pose with the Galentine's surprise guest!



Rita Quinn, guest Martha Mugler, guest Anne Abraham, Jane Quinn, Sue Morgan and Mary Johnson pose with the most popular guy at the party!



The "Fundraising" Committee welcome their photo op guest to the event! From left, Mary Diggs, Joanna Bigley, Milly



Historic Garden Week

Historic Garden Week Tickets are now live! Please encourage your friends to go to vagardenweek.org to purchase tickets. Tickets for the Hampton-Newport News tour in Poquoson are \$45 and the tour runs from 10am-5pm.

Hostess shifts are now live: please sign up with the link below if you have not already.

[HRGC2: Historic Garden Tour Hostess Sign Up 2024 \(signupgenius.com\)](#) Beginning in March we will be opening shifts to the Peninsula Council of Garden Clubs and you will be able to forward the sign up to friends and family. Please talk this up as it is a wonderful way to enjoy the tour, receive a free ticket and help out a wonderful cause! If you have any questions about hostessing please contact Rose Field or Julie LoCicero, Hostess Chairs.

The March meeting will be held at the Poquoson Community Center – after the meeting we will be going to the homes to look at arrangements. Arranging assignments were sent out today by email. Please bring cameras, measuring tape, etc. anything you will need to get your fabulous design ideas in place. If you cannot attend please let us know and we will make sure someone takes pictures for you. As you ponder what your arrangement will be for HGW, Flower Chairs Joanna Bigley and Allison Hund would like to provide you with some Arranging Tips. Click here:

https://www.gcvirginia.org/warehouse/fm/documents/articles/announcement/HGW_PlantListforArrangingr.pdf

Flowers After Hours Tickets are also now on sale, see information below.

The Hampton-Newport News Historic Garden Week Committee invites you to

Flowers After Hours

Wednesday April 24th, 2024 from 5:00-7:00

At the Poquoson Yacht Club
417 Messick Road

Food & Libations & Fabulous Waterfront Views

Tickets \$30 per person

Check made out to HRGC or VENMO to @Hampton-Garden

Tickets on sale at March Meetings through April 10th.

Come help celebrate and socialize as we wrap up the 2024 Tour!



GC of Norfolk Lifestyle Lecture Series

On Tuesday, February 20, 2024 HRGC members Maryann Ayer, Mary Diggs, Donna Herbert, Mary Johnson, Sidney Jordan, Julie LoCicero and Rita Quinn attended the Floral Lecture with Sandra Sigman at the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club. Sandra is the author of "French Blooms: Floral Arrangements Inspired by Paris and Beyond" and she demonstrated her floral design that she learned after living in Paris for many years and working in small Parisian flower shops. It was a fun and informative day that

included some fun shopping at the many vendors in attendance.



Sandra Sigman discusses how she designs flower arrangements based on her



Sandra demonstrated how she makes a handheld bouquet.



The beautiful arrangement by Sandra.

experience working in flower shops in Paris.



Julie LoCicero and Mary Diggs meet Sandra Sigman!



This is a carnation that she manipulated by pulling out the middle of the flower!



A tulip with bent back petals.



guidance, please contact Horticulture Chair, Allison Hund. We currently have 8 HRGC members volunteering in various positions throughout the day. If you would like to volunteer and join in the fun click [here](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4CA8AF22A57-46865183-daffodil#/). [Hope to see you there!](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4CA8AF22A57-46865183-daffodil#/)

Daffodil Day

We are “Dancing with Daffodils” at the GCV Daffodil Day on March 27, 2024, at Virginia Wesleyan University in Virginia Beach. This should be a fabulous show right here in Hampton Roads! Please consider entering one of your daffodils in the show. If you need



Community Projects-Help Needed

The Community Projects Committee is planning another class with the children of Harbour Apartments in Newport News. On March 8th they will be working with the students to make spring flower arrangements and they need our help. The committee is

looking for supplies such as small vases, mason jars, ribbon, greenery etc. If you have any of these supplies that you can donate to the committee, please contact Sherry Maynard and get them to her by March 5th, Thank you for your help!

Peninsula Council of Garden Clubs

The next meeting of the PCGC will be held Friday, March 8, 2024 at the Hilton Woman’s Club, 87 Main Street at 10:00 a.m. Voting will take place for next year’s club officers. Samantha Bishop from the Hampton Roads Garden Club and this year’s Chairman of Historic Garden Week will be the guest speaker. Sam will be discussing the upcoming tour in Poquoson as well as volunteer shift opportunities for PCGC members. The program will be a flower arranging demonstration entitled



"Welcome to Spring Arrangements" by Francis Thrash, artistic floral arranger and designer and President of the Richmond's Designer Guild.



GCV Annual Fund "Piece of the Pie" Campaign

The GCV's Annual Fund helps to propel the mission of the statewide organization. Apart from Historic Garden Week and the ongoing historic landscape restorations which have separate budgets, the Annual Fund supports all other GCV programs.

This club year the Annual Fund began on July 1, 2023 and runs until June 30, 2024. Mary Johnson is hoping we can improve on our numbers from last year and reach our goal of 100%. Again this year, at each meeting Mary will award a pie to one member who has contributed her "piece of the pie" to the annual fund this club year. At the end of the year if we reach our goal, Mary will allow one lucky member who has contributed to the pie to hit her with a pie in the face!

As of February 27, 2024, we have had 21 Actives donate (40%), 4 Associates donate (22%) for a club total of 25 donations which is 36% of the club!

If you would like to support the GCV Annual Fund and help us reach our goal of 100% you may mail your donation to GCV, 12 E. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219. Make checks payable to GCV and designate "Annual Fund" on the memo line. If you would like a donation envelope, please contact Mary. You may also pay online at www.gcvirginia.org and click on donate.

Thank you for your support of the Annual Fund and contributing your Piece of the Pie!

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to our March Birthday Ladies!

4-Dale Banning

8-Associate Frankye McAdam

16-Associate Ellen Jones

25-Associate Mary Jane Baber who turns 90!

26-Allison Hund

27-Becky Tench



In Case You Missed It!

On February 22, 2024, the honeybee was named the Virginia State Pollinator by the Virginia General Assembly!



Just For Fun



Winter whispers to Spring,
"I'm snow tired," and Spring responds,
"I'll take it from here, just leaf it to me!"



Mary Johnson

Mary is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters