



# THE AUGUSTA GARDEN CLUB

*Established in 1919*

*Charter Member of the Garden Club of Virginia*

*Member of the Garden Club of America since 1927*

**January 2018**

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## **Welcome 2018!**

As we begin the new year, it's hard to believe we are half-way through our club year. Thanks so much to you all for the work you've done this past summer and fall. Our committees have been quite busy, and in order to help us reboot and prepare for the remainder of the year, I've asked our committee chairs to provide a brief update in this month's letter. Please read through the updates, and please

be thinking of how you can contribute on your committee or any club activity. Sometimes the best ideas come from someone not as closely involved in a project. We have much to look forward to this spring with Historic Garden Week, Project Dogwood advancing, our Daffodil Show, and some informative meeting programs. I am particularly excited about this month's flower arranging team challenge— what a fun way to start the year! Be sure to note the schedule below for the meeting so you won't miss out.

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday enjoying the company of family and friends. Wishing you and our Club all the best in 2018!

*Deneen*

## **Bring a friend!**

Club meetings between now and April are a great way to introduce friends, and potential new members, to the Augusta Garden Club. Invite someone to attend and learn more about our programs and activities.

## **JANUARY MEETING SCHEDULE**

Interactive team flower arranging activity, followed by brief club meeting

Hostesses: Nancy Williams and Kathy Moore

**January 17, 2018**

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church, 100 East Frederick Street, Staunton

**TEAM FLORAL ARRANGING: Please arrive by 10 a.m. to participate—**arranging will begin shortly after 10. All materials provided for this fun team experience. Refreshments and business meeting to follow.

**Remember to bring your clippers and creativity!**

## COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- ♦ **ARCHIVES:** Sorting through Historic Garden Week materials continues; the committee is more than half-way through those documents and will continue to share information and Centennial Moments from the collection.
- ♦ **CONSERVATION:** GCV published an article and photo of our Club's Cigarette Litter Project in its [December Journal](#). The committee looks to expand the project in the community, provide more educational information, and apply to Keep Virginia Beautiful for another grant.
- ♦ **FLOWER SHOWS:** Be sure to join the fun at this month's meeting as we learn how to arrange with natural winter materials. Then, think spring! These cold winter months will not last forever, and soon the sunny days of April will be here with the beautiful daffodils. Remember, this year you have the opportunity of not just showing your gems in the Horticultural Show but also in an arrangement in the Daffodil Flower Show in April. More information about this event will be available soon.

- ♦ **HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK:** Work continues on the final editing of the state guidebook, setting up the local brochure to send to the printer, and visiting all of the homes on the tour the week of April 16th. We are so thankful that Peason Financial Group is our local flower sponsor again. Heifetz will perform at Sugar Loaf Farm, and the Plein Air Festival and WWPL Garden Party are all happening in conjunction with our tour.



The flower arranging team assignments will be announced by the end of the month before visits are scheduled in February for everyone to see the homes.

We will need a number of husbands/volunteers for parking and driving a shuttle for HGW. (Contact Susan Laser to help.)

Facebook Users: Help promote Historic Garden Week in Staunton & Augusta County! Be sure to visit [our page](#). "Like" or "follow" posts from HGW in Staunton/Augusta. Even better, when you see a post from HGW in Staunton/Augusta, please "share" it with your friends on your page. This helps news about our tour reach not only those following our club's page but also everyone in your network. Facebook is a powerful, and free, way to promote our tour and gather interest from potential visitors.

- ♦ **PROGRAMS:** A field trip to [Pharsalia](#) is planned for June 13th. Details coming soon!
- ♦ **MEMBERSHIP:** Requests for change in membership status (including resignation) must be received by April 1st, 2018. Proposals for new members may be submitted at any time but must be received by May 1st, 2018 to be considered for the upcoming year. Any member that has been active for one year or more may propose a candidate by submitting a letter of proposal, a seconding letter from another active member, and the Proposal for New Members form found in the Year Book. A member may only sponsor one candidate per year. Send all changes or proposals to Beth Scripps, Membership Chair, 305 East Beverley St., Staunton, VA 24401.



A basket of peonies at  
Pharsalia.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES (continued):

### ♦ CIVIC AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS– PROJECT DOGWOOD:

Nancy McDaniel and Karen Santos finalized the Founders Fund allocation for the spring 2018 dogwood planting with Matt Sensabaugh, city horticulturist. He is working with city school superintendent and three elementary principals to plant nine trees at the schools. We will plant most of the remainder of the trees in Montgomery Hall Park. Matt is currently ordering the trees and arranging for delivery in early spring. Finalizing the tree aspect provides specific money allocation for the remainder of the grant ideas. We have an idea for using some of the Founders Fund money for educational purposes and hopefully will be able to share this soon. Holly Bailey, Deneen Brannock, Matt, and others from the City are working on Founders Fund educational signage for the “living laboratories” in Gypsy Hill Park and Montgomery Hall Park.



Cordelia Gary and Laura Nordstrom are working with Karen and Nancy to finalize content for the Dogwood Project area of the AGC webpage. This will include history with images of Mr. Ruff, information from AGC archives, information about the dogwood cultivars, details of three grants received—including Founders Fund, an award honoring Matt Sensabaugh, and information about Club Challenge.

The Club Dogwood Challenge flier has been updated with information about each of the hardy cultivars. It is attached for your reference.

We are continuing to receive dogwood “selfies” from AGC members. Thank you Emily Cochran and Carol Shannon! Now we have three so far. Spring is coming, so please make plans to plant your tree(s).

Nancy and Karen have created a first draft of the Commonwealth Award application and are working on polishing this for board review and submission in March.

Now that the fundamental projects of Founder’s Fund implementation, website information, Club Challenge, and Common Wealth Award application are almost completed, the committee is poised to move into some of the creative ideas we generated last August. Thanks to everyone for all their hard work.

*Thanks to all committee chairs for providing these reports. Keep up to date by checking out our [website](#) blog and calendar.*

## Events & Items of Interest:

- January 22nd, [GCV Legislative Day](#), Richmond.
- February 6-8th, [GCV Flower and Botanical Arts Arranging Workshops](#), Richmond.
- February 21st, 10 a.m. Club meeting, Montgomery Hall Park. Hosted by Betty Vellines & Kathy Frazier. Speaker: Matt Sensabaugh, City Horticulturist.
- March 27-28th, [GCV Daffodil Day!](#) Horticulture, Floral Design, Photography! Richmond
- March 28th, GCV [Luncheon Lecture](#) as part of Daffodil Day with Tony Avent, “Surround Yourself with Shady Characters – Creating and Maintaining a Shade Garden.”
- May 9th– **Augusta Garden Club Annual Meeting**– please note this change of date for our meeting.



# "PROJECT DOGWOOD"

## AUGUSTA GARDEN CLUB CHALLENGE



Staunton's 1935 city manager, Mr. Ruff, had a vision to enhance the city with dogwoods and the Augusta Garden Club is reviving this tradition with a multi-year, multi-faceted dogwood restoration project.

*Let's personally join the effort to restore the state tree and flower!*



### PLANT A DOGWOOD!

Fall 2017 or Spring 2018

*Four easy steps!*

1. Identify a place for your new dogwood....  
your home or business; or donate one to someone or someplace.

2. Contact or visit a local nursery to select your tree. (See the list of project cultivars below.)

3. Plant your tree!

4. Take a selfie &  
send to AGC!  
We want to see your  
tree and post it on  
our website.



### PROJECT DOGWOOD CULTIVARS

1. **Cherokee Princess**- White flowers that are quite large and bloom early. Vigorous and resistant to spot anthracnose, a leaf disease different than dogwood anthracnose.
2. **Karen's Appalachian Blush**- Fairly new cultivar resistant to powdery mildew. White flowers with a dusting of pink on the petals.
3. **Jean's Appalachian Snow**- Resistant to powdery mildew. Has large white flowers like Cherokee Princess; a new introduction with good fall color.
4. **Cloud Nine**- Not listed for any disease resistance but a very heavy flowering & fruiting tree. An old cultivar that goes back to the 1950's. It tends to grow slowly.
5. **Appalachian Spring**- White flowers and very slow growing. Resistant to dogwood anthracnose although susceptible to powdery mildew; red to purple fall color.
6. **Cherokee Brave**- Red/dark pink flowers with pale centers. Good resistance to powdery mildew.
7. **Kay's Appalachian Mist**- Resistant to powdery mildew, good fall color