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HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK

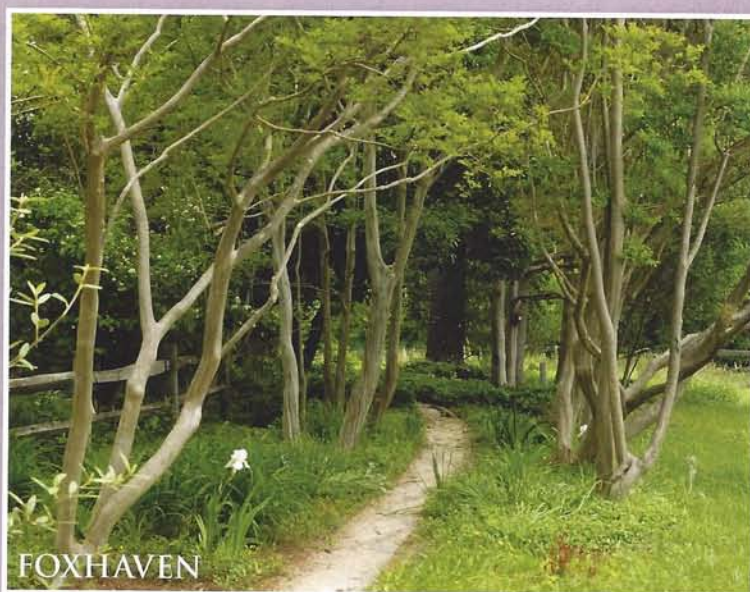
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ALBEMARLE- CHARLOTTESVILLE

HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK TOUR 2015





Each spring, visitors are welcomed to over 250 of Virginia's most beautiful gardens, homes and historic landmarks during The Garden Club of Virginia's Historic Garden Week, known as "America's Largest Open House." This statewide event provides visitors a unique opportunity to see unforgettable gardens at the peak of Virginia's springtime color, as well as beautiful houses sparkling with over 2,000 flower arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members.

Locally, Albemarle-Charlottesville Historic Garden Week events will be held April 18 through April 21 at private properties as well as other public areas of interest. The Charlottesville Garden Club, Rivanna Garden Club and Albemarle Garden Club will host four spectacular area homes and gardens on Sunday, April 19th and Monday, April 20th. Visitors will not have to venture far from Charlottesville city limits to encounter the unique properties on this year's Albemarle-Charlottesville tour. The local event features four Ivy-area country homes and gardens in Albemarle County, offering something to please everyone—from historic estates to restored Gillette gardens to prized modern landscape architecture. Albemarle-Charlottesville Historic Garden Week will also feature Albemarle County properties: Morven Estate (weather permitting), and University of Virginia Carr's Hill, East Lawn Pavilions, and events at Monticello.

Here, enjoy a first look at the properties featured on the two-day tour.



Photos provided by Steve Frumbull



BLOOMFIELD

500 Bloomfield Road

Originally part of a 2,000-acre grant to Charles Hudson in 1735, this grand Jeffersonian-style home built in 1849 has been altered many times over the years to suit the needs of its various owners. In addition to being a private home, it has served as a preparatory school for UVA and as a finishing school for girls. With great vision, the current owners eliminated all educational vestiges and returned the home to its former glory. The gardens have enjoyed a renaissance as well. Original stacked stone walls and large hedges of ancient American boxwood are now flanked by lush perennial beds, mixed borders, flowering shrubs, specimen trees, and a pool with views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. There is a cutting garden on the foundation of one of the original outbuildings. The owners have established a small orchard and restored a pavilion and raised-bed garden. This elevated garden now serves as a kitchen garden, due to its proximity to the house.

VERULAM FARM

99 Bloomfield Road

Located atop a knoll at the foot of Ragged Mountain, this farm commands a breathtaking western view of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The manor home dates to 1939 and was designed by Marshall Wells, who was in the first graduating class of the School of Architecture at UVA. Wells is known for his use of intricate moldings, high-quality local materials, including Rockingham slate roofs and reclaimed "beehive" brick, and the blending of indoor and outdoor spaces. Of note is the heavy iron garden gate that he acquired from the White House when it was replaced with a taller one during World War II. Wells worked with landscape architect Charles Gillette to design the gardens. Breezeways and brick paths through understated classical gardens befit the Jeffersonian elegance of the Georgian Revival house. The current owner has spent more than a decade restoring the home and gardens to their original splendor. In addition to work on the Gillette gardens, pool and pond, the owner has established a two-tiered vegetable garden, a small heritage orchard, and a nut walk leading out to the woods. Adjacent to the Friesian breeding facilities, a 100-year-old barn has been restored for use as a wedding and public-event venue. Special garden-related events are scheduled at the barn throughout the day (detailed schedule of all barn events is available at www.vagardenweek.org).
Melton McGuire, owner.



Photos provided by Catrina



Photos provided by Sue Ann Morgan



HARRIS HOME

3920 Dick Woods Road (gardens only)

A sunny rise just north of Ragged Mountain is an idyllic setting for this property. The owners purchased the 35-acre parcel and constructed a modern home, which communicates naturally with its environment. The home is sited to capture optimal views of the gardens, fields and mountains beyond, in a scale that is both welcoming and gracious. A tree-lined drive leads to the home. The foundation bed at the entrance features limelight hydrangea standards surrounding a large, carved bird feeder. Extending along the left side of the home is a long, wide perennial garden that draws visitors from the front circle into the backyard. There are species and hybrid tulips, roses, and *Fritillaria imperialis* 'Lutea maxima', to name a few. Favorite annuals like yellow and orange nasturtiums edge the beds. View the gardens from a stone-edged terrace that includes a wisteria-covered pergola, more perennial beds and an open, double-sided fireplace, which frames the view of distant mountains. A mowed nature walk completes the connection to the landscape and explores the back of the property.

Dana and Peter Harris, owners

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Photos provided by Sue Ann



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FOXHAVEN

286 Foxhaven Farm

In May 2012, the University of Virginia Foundation acquired Foxhaven, a sprawling 200-acre farm just outside the western border of Charlottesville city limits. Henderson and Jane Heyward bought the property in 1949, and over the ensuing decades Jane lovingly established gardens and trails throughout the property, and nurtured an eclectic mix of plant life. An avid and lifelong gardener and member of the Albemarle Garden Club she collected specimens of trees, shrubs and plants from friends and from her travels to create woodland gardens, perennial beds, a cottage garden, and shaded pathways bordered with bulbs and seasonal flowers. Year-round, something is always in bloom at Foxhaven. Her hope was that one day her home and grounds could be an arboretum or botanical garden. Prior to her passing, she established a trust for the renovation of the garden. As the Foundation begins to restore the property, visitors can see what botanical treasures are thriving once again at Foxhaven. Tree stewards will offer two tours daily on Sunday, at 1 and 3 p.m. and Monday, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

University of Virginia Foundation, owner.

Historic Garden Week is the largest ongoing volunteer effort in the state, and all funds raised benefit the restoration and preservation of historic public gardens in Virginia. Local beneficiaries include Monticello, Montpelier, Poplar Forest and the University of Virginia. See www.vagardenweek.org for more information. 