



PHOTO BY JANE MCKINNEY

Pollinators In Peril

Free conservation forum in Barboursville

Can you imagine life without tomatoes, corn or roses? Bats, hummingbirds, ants, beetles, wasps, butterflies, moths, flies and even lizards are "busy as bees" each spring and summer pollinating fruits, vegetables, and flowers. In fact, more than 100,000 invertebrate species as well as 1,035 species of vertebrates, including birds, mammals, and reptiles, all help pollinate the plants we depend on and enjoy. The public is invited to join the Dolley Madison Garden Club and the Orange County Farm Bureau at Stonefire Station in Barboursville Wednesday, March 11 at 2 p.m. for a free one-hour conservation forum presented as a community service.

Three of Virginia's conservation leaders will kick off the forum with presentations on the remarkable range of species that make up the pollinator community, the threats imperiling these species and the actions farmers and homeowners can take to mitigate those threats.

- Certified VA Master Naturalist Jack Price sits on the steering committee that oversees the Virginia Master Naturalist Program at the state level. He has served on the board of directors of the Shenandoah National Park Association since 2006, and was the board president from 2010 through 2013.
- Don Hearl serves as President, Old Rag Chapter, Virginia Master Naturalists and is a Virginia Certified Watershed Educator.
- Albemarle County water resource specialist Repp Glaettli is a co-publisher of Piedmont Native Plants: A guide for gardeners and landscapers.

Following the individual speakers, a two-person panel including Ann Harman, past president of the Virginia Beekeepers Association, an internationally recognized bee consultant and winner of the President's Call to Service Award (given to people who have worked more than 4,000 hours of volunteer service overseas) and Robert Wellemeyer, state apiarist, agriculture inspector and pollinator specialist will present their views on how to best protect pollinators and will take questions from the audience following the discussion.

Stonefire Station will be open from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. for lunch and libations, and vendors offering conservation-friendly products will be on hand to inspire attendees who wish to do their part in the fight to save Pollinators in Peril.

Historic Garden Week Tour announced

"From Pastures to Parterres..." April 18

The Dolley Madison Garden Club is pleased to announce the 2015 Historic Garden Week tour, April 18, in Orange County. This year's tour, "From Pastures to Parterres..." highlights the evolution of farming and architecture along the Spotswood Trail.

Properties feature late 18th- and early to late 19th-century homes, outbuildings and gardens, replete with period architecture and artifacts, antique furnishings and art collections. Gardens range from boxwood-lined drives to extensive formal parterre gardens and perennial landscapes. The tour is illustrative of the evolution of garden design from the 1700s to the 21st century and will feature the following properties.

Aerie Farm

The residence at Aerie Farm was built in the 1850s as an elegant Colonial-style farmhouse perched atop a hill overlooking Spotswood Trail. Today, the home features two-story galleries spanning the width of the house, all comfortably furnished with American and English antiques. An original tack room within the home has been converted to a "snuggery" in the British tradition. The living room opens onto a formal garden replete with perennials, leading to a less formal peony garden and pergola. A beautifully sited 1850s guesthouse adjacent to the residence rambles in the landscape, illustrative of numerous additions over time. Both the main residence and guesthouse front on formal rose and perennial gardens and nearby lies a large fenced vegetable and fruit tree garden.

The owners are Jane and Bill Remington.

Springfields

A 100-acre property listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Springfields was part of the original Nicholas Meriwether land grant first settled by Revolutionary War hero Col. Reuben Lindsay, who built a home here in 1791. The 1895 Georgian Revival house, grounds and gardens will be open, including Lindsay's mysterious 1791 hexagonal stone tower, which served as Christ Episcopal Church from 1869-1874. Also open will be a smokehouse (1791), Lindsay family graveyard, dairy barn (1840), stable and riding arena. Formal gardens and parterres contain over 500 David Austin rose shrubs, 700 English and American boxwoods and 300 hydrangeas and other perennials. The extensive grounds showcase forty separate gardens with centuries-old trees in a park-like setting.

Gail Babnew and Joel Silverman are the owners.

Annadale

Century-old cedars line the long drive announcing this Federal-style home built in 1816 by Robert King, whose wife Priscilla was the daughter of Nathaniel Gordon, founder of Gordonsville. Rescued by the current owners in 2012 from a planned subdivision of 291 residential units, 244-acre Annadale has been restored to its historic use as a family farm. Interestingly, the estate was in the current owner's family from 1928 until 1996 and has been preserved for future generations of the family by a conservation easement. Outbuildings on the property include a historic slave kitchen that has been converted to a guesthouse and office. In the center is a huge working fireplace anchoring both rooms. The smokehouse is unique in that it was constructed entirely of wood, including the lock on the door. The granary has been converted to an art studio, where the owner's pottery will be exhibited.

Merrill and Philip Strange own this estate.

Barboursville Vineyards, the 1804 Inn and Ruins

Visitors are encouraged to tour this award winning winery, the 1804 Inn and Mansion Ruins. Rarely open to the public, the 1804 Inn features Flemish bond walls, hand-hewn floors and 11-foot ceilings. This house is the home of the Vineyards' Italian owners when they are in residence. Visitors may also enjoy touring the Ruins of Governor Barbour's mansion, one of only three Thomas Jefferson designed for his friends, with the benefit of interpretive guidance offered by an Historic Garden Week docent. The ruins of the Barbour home exhibit signature characteristics of Jefferson's design: integration of the three-story structure into an elevated knoll, hidden stairways and an octagonal room. Barboursville Vineyards has 138 acres under cultivation, producing an array of varieties. Visitors are encouraged to tour the award winning winery, hospitality center and tasting rooms. This property is owned by Gianni Zonin.

Advance tickets for the tour are on sale for \$25 per person at www.vagardenweek.org. Tickets are also available locally until noon on Apr. 17 at Elmwood at Sparks, The Arts Center of Orange in Orange and at the Laurie Holladay Shop and Colonial Florist in Gordonsville. Tickets may be ordered by mail through Apr. 6. Send checks payable to Dolley Madison Garden Club along with a stamped, self-addressed legal sized envelope to: Cynthia Whitman, P.O. Box 1017, Orange, VA 22960. Tickets will also be available on site the day of the tour for \$30. For more information, contact Gail Babnew at (540)832-2845.

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