

Pastures to Parterres...

Dolley Madison Garden Club hosts Historic Garden Week with Rt. 33 tour April 18

Pastures to Parterres is the 2015 Historic Garden Week tour in Orange County April 18 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. This year's tour 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 illustrates the evolution of garden design from the 1700s to the 21st century.

Historic Garden Week, the country's oldest and largest house and garden tour, is first and foremost a fundraiser supporting restoration of historic gardens around the Commonwealth. The Garden Club of Virginia estimates the impact of Historic Garden Week over the last 45 years to be \$425 million.

Tickets for the Orange County tour include admission to the following three private homes, gardens and outbuildings and to the Barboursville Ruins, The 1804 Inn and Cottages (open only from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.), tasting room and the hospitality center at Barboursville Vineyard.

More than a tour

Historic Garden Week in Orange features many additional exhibits, vendors and events to enjoy throughout the tour:

Historic Garden Week Happy Hour: after the tour ends, the party begins. The Market at Grelen is staying open late (until 7 p.m.) and hosting an open house happy hour starting at 4 p.m. for tour visitors and volunteers alike. You are invited to celebrate the conclusion of your tour on the terrace at nearby Grelen Nursery enjoying live music, a complimentary appetizer bar and Virginia beer, cider and wine while enjoying an unparalleled view of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Award winning artist Armand Cabrera has painted a series of oils of Springfields. He will be on hand during the afternoon on April 18 painting en plein air and welcoming questions.

Garry Harter of Cattail Creek will also be on hand giving rose husbandry talks at Springfields and answering rose cultivation questions.

Refreshments will be served from 2 – 4 p.m. at Annadale featuring lemonade and cookies by New England Culinary Institute graduate and Real Food Chef Sarah Deigl.



The Market at Grelen, a long-time sponsor of Garden Club of Virginia activities state-wide, will be on hand at Aerie Farm to answer questions about their services and show some of their one-of-a-kind garden and lifestyle merchandise from their popular market.

Gail Babnew spent 10 years researching the history of Springfields. Her book, "Springfields Memoirs," will be available for purchase at the property. The book, based on detailed reference to letters, deeds, household accounts and architectural features, walks the reader through the history of the beautiful home and surrounding grounds. Babnew is donating profits from the sale of her book to

Historic Garden Week.

James Madison's Montpelier is offering Garden Club ticket holders a \$2 discount on all mansion tours, and a free gift with any purchase at Montpelier's Museum Shop - not just on the day of the tour, but through April 25!

Good to know before you go

No high heels inside homes – bad for the gardens, dangerous to interior floor coverings. This is a day for comfortable walking shoes.

Handicap accessibility – these venues are primarily private homes and are not handicap-accessible. Moderate walking ability over uneven ground and ability to manage stairs will be necessary to enjoy the tour

fully.

No photography inside homes – visitors will be asked to power off their cell phones completely while inside these private homes. No interior photography of any kind will be permitted.

Restroom facilities

Restroom facilities are available at Springfields, Stonefire Station and Barboursville Vineyards. There are no public restroom facilities at Aerie Farm or Annadale.

Lunch

While box lunches are not offered this year, Stonefire Station is offering a special Historic Garden Week menu and many area restaurants will be open and looking forward to visitors.

Tickets

Advance tickets are on sale for \$25 per person at www.vagardenweek.org. Tickets are also available locally until noon April 17 at Elmwood at Sparks, The Arts Center In Orange, the Laurie Holladay Shop and Colonial Florist in Gordonsville. Tickets will also be available on site the day of the tour for \$30 per person.

For more information, contact Orange@vagardenweek.org.

CNC awarded wood innovation grant

Will be used to identify potential users, provide engineering help

The Center for Natural Capital was selected last week by the United States Forest Service as a Wood Innovation Grants recipient.

The Center's Virginia Community Wood Energy Program was one of 17 successful applicants from a pool of 100 proposals across the nation.

The Center's proposal continues work begun

in 2013 with the Virginia Department of Forestry to raise awareness and expand the use of wood fuels as an alternative to fossil fuels for producing hot water and heating buildings.

According to Brian Becker, program manager for the Virginia Community Wood Energy Program, "Using wood fuels from local forests stimulates jobs

and keeps energy dollars in our communities while contributing to forest health" by reducing the cost of forest restoration, invasive species, disease and pest outbreak control, storm debris cleanup and wild fire mitigation programs.

The Virginia Community Wood Energy program provides statewide outreach and education with a focus

on fuel oil and propane-dependant communities. The Wood Innovation Grant funds will be used to identify potential wood energy users and provide engineering assistance to candidate locations.

For more information, see the Virginia Community Wood Energy website at www.woodenergyva.org or contact Becker at brian@naturalcapital.us.

Little girl, big fish



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Racheal Knically caught this nearly 25-pound catfish at her home pond in Mine Run. The big catch was nearly half the size of the young Knically. Father Bobby Knically assisted in the catch and step-mother Amy Yount was ready with the camera when Knically hauled in her big catch.

4-H Center Family Fun Day planned April 18

The Northern Virginia 4-H Center in Front Royal is hosting a 4 for 4-H Fun Run and Community Day on April 18.

This event is a great opportunity for anyone who is interested in attending 4-H Camp, June 14-18, with Orange County 4-H to go see the 4-H Center before you go to camp.

The morning of April 18 will be the 4 for 4-H Fun Run. The afternoon of that same day will be the free Community Day. This family event will run from 1-4 p.m. and there are many activities to participate in. The zip-line, the climbing wall, tie dying, gau-gau (a 4-H camp favorite), face painting, 2015 camp staff meet-and-greet and an inflatable obstacle

challenge will all be open. This is a great time for anyone interested in attending camp to check it out before you go.

If you are interested in participating in the 4 for 4-H 4-K or 4-mile Fun Run, or would like more information on the free Community Day, visit <http://www.nova4h.com/#programs> or call 672-1361.

LOOKING FOR A LOVING HOME

AMELIA

1-year-old female domestic short hair

Amelia is a beautiful beige/light grey tabby. She is graceful and has remarkable composure for such a young cat.



BEBE

2 1/2-year-old female pit bull terrier

Bebe is a shy girl, but so affectionate! She greets you with wags and loves to be hugged and talked to. This sweet girl needs someone to think she is special and wonderful.



CLIFFIE

8-year-old male beagle

Here's the adorable little beagle, Cliffie! Full of spunk and personality. He adores toys, and when he has several he tries to play with them all at the same time.



CLOVER

7-year-old female beagle

Pretty little Clover came to us as a very frightened stray in February. Staff and volunteers have worked daily to socialize her and win her trust. Clover wants to be friends. She approaches us cautiously, and then retreats. This sweet little lady is tiny, weighing 10 pounds.



LACEY

1 1/2-year old female boxer/pointer mix

Lacey is a beautiful, friendly young dog. She is large—not overweight—but big-boned and heavily built. She is full of playfulness and affection and will make a great family pet.



LITTLE ANNE

3-year-old female foxhound

Little Anne is very affectionate. She is also quite playful



and loves toys—especially squeaky ones. She'll be a gentle, well-mannered and fun-loving family pet.

MILTON

2-year-old male red-bone coonhound

Meet Milton!

This gorgeous boy is super smart. He knows how to sit, lay down, stay, speak! He'll give you his paw and can rock a tennis ball like no other!



SEBASTIAN

4-year-old male domestic short hair

This stylish fellow makes a wonderful, dramatic impression with his beautiful black and white markings. He is a nice, large, calm kitty, who will make a fine family pet.



These animals have all been spayed/neutered, tested and vaccinated. For more information, call the Orange County Animal Shelter at 672-1124.

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