

Charlottesville-Albemarle Council of Garden Clubs

February 3, 2026

Home of Jeanne Marie Holden, Charlottesville Garden Club
2050 Red Hill Road, Charlottesville 22903

Speaker: Lara Gastinger, “Documenting Nature as a Botanical Artist”

- Excellent presentation! She’s a good speaker, has MANY slides explaining her presentation and showing her work. Intelligent and talented!!
- Royal Horticultural Society Botanical Art Shows in London (2007, 2018) gold medalist. Illustrated 1300 illustrations for *Flora of Virginia*. You can read her extensive list of activities, and multiple degrees at her website. ”Her book, *A Perpetual Journal Practice* will be published in June.
- Sketches lightly in ink, then: “inks” it, adds water color to plant or background, inks in shading, Rarely paints flowers—short-lived; instead loves, roots, decay/decaying, milkweed, lichen (“otherworldly”) and moss “tiny world”)
- Promotes “Nature Journaling”, a journal of sketches each week of the year across several years; ie. each week has a page, but the illustrations come from multiple years. Writes notes on where, when, season and weather
- Offers weekly virtual drawing classes on Instagram on Mondays. Draw with her, or do your own.
- Her website is www.laracallgastinger.com

Business:

- 1) Requesting suggestions for the Council’s May garden tour.
- 2) Reminding clubs that annual dues of \$20 are due prior to, or at the, May Council meeting
- 3) Treasurer reported that over the years the Council has given a large gift (about \$500) to one organization a year. (Like us, they’re discussing their donations.) New to me was CultivateCharlottesville.org, "Cultivate Charlottesville engages youth and community in building an equitable, sustainable food system through garden-based experiential learning, growing and sharing healthy food, amplifying community leaders, and advocating for food justice."
- 4) Clubs should expect the End of Year Reports preferred format to be emailed soon.
- 5) What is each club’s format for archives? Have any clubs digitized theirs?

Business was mostly reports by each club on activities. In addition to monthly program presentations, which will be included in the End of Year Reports and considered by your Programming Chairs, the following events were promoted:

- 1) “History Blooms” at VA Museum of History and Culture in Richmond, February 20-22. The Dolley Madison Garden Club is participating. “...celebrating America's 250th anniversary with Revolutionary Garden-themed floral displays. Organized with the [Garden Club of Virginia](#), this 3-day event features workshops, a luncheon, and expert speakers like [Remco van Vliet](#). Admission ticket includes “History Blooms” displays. There are also programs for which you can sign up.

2) On April 18/19, in addition to the gardens at Monticello, the Garden Tour ticket includes two Garth Road private gardens open for Historic Garden Week (Albemarle-Charlottesville): Deep Rock Farm and Skyfall. (I think that is the name I heard. Anyone else aware of this property on Garth?) On Monday, April 20, the garden ticket is for Morven, UVA and Monticello Gardens.

3) Charlottesville Garden Club's *What to Do When in the Garden* has been updated and improved—going to print soon. Gift idea?

4) Add Piedmont Master Gardeners Spring Plant Sale and Green Elephant to upcoming gardens related events. Info @ <https://piedmontmastergardeners.org/event/spring-plant-sale-2/>

Green Elephant Donation Details

- When: Feb 1 – April 30 (approximate), typically Saturdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon.
- Where: 402 Albemarle Square (look for the banner).
- Accepted Items: Gently used garden tools, pots, planters, outdoor furniture, books, bird feeders, and garden decor.
- Items NOT Accepted: Plastic nursery pots, opened chemicals, or soiled items.