



◆ Belmont, in Fredericksburg, is one of the Garden Club of Virginia's current restoration projects. The 18th century estate was the last home of the American painter Gari Melchers.

## House and Garden Tours of 1994

Here is a list of local house and garden tours in chronological order.

### WASHINGTON

**ASID Sunday Snoop House Tour, April 17, 1 to 5 p.m.** This tour, offered for the second year by the Washington Metropolitan Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers, highlights private dwellings reflecting the work of top interior designers in the Washington metropolitan area. The five examples on this tour include a dramatic Bauhaus contemporary glass house by Gary Lovejoy, a chintz-filled English Tudor home designed by Penne Poole and a classic residence with garden vistas accented by contemporary art designed by John Peters Irelan. Two other stops on the tour are a light-filled California style overlooking the reservoir designed by Steve

Richards and a Colonial style with a contemporary interior that designer Marcia Hayman filled with a soft neutral palette accented by nature's colors. This tour will begin at the Wesley Seminary, 4500 Massachusetts Ave. NW. Buses will depart between 1 and 2 p.m. Following the tour, a tea and a silent auction featuring antiques, accessories and a variety of design services for sale, will be held at the seminary. Advance tour ticket purchase is required: \$40; \$75 for two tickets. 202-388-2743.

**Georgetown House Tour, April 23 and 24, noon until 5 p.m.** Six houses are open each day on this tour sponsored by St. John's Episcopal Church. Offered for the 67th year, this tour, which was first conducted from an open bus, is believed to be the oldest in the nation. On April 23, houses on the east side of Wisconsin Avenue, including a small dwelling with a contemporary art collection and a largely glass rear overlooking a garden are featured. On April 24, houses on the west side, including the Federal-style residence used in the movie "Dave," are on view. Advance tickets: \$18; \$20 if purchased after April 10; \$15 per person for groups of 20 or more. 202-338-1796.

**Capitol Hill House and Garden Tour, May 7 and 8.** The 37th annual tour, sponsored by the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, will showcase the houses of members of Congress. Ten residences and a senator's office located in the Capitol Hill Historic District are open. Included are Sen. Ben Lighthorse Campbell's (D-Colo.) office, which features Native American furniture made by his son; Rep. Porter Goss's (R-Fla.) Federal-style house with a mural of the Mall and a tiled dining room and plants that make it feel like an outdoor terrace, and Sen. Connie Mack's (R-Fla.) four-level "stairmaster house" just behind the Supreme Court that is one-room deep and one-room wide. Hours: May 7, 6 to 9 p.m.; May 8, 2 to 6 p.m. On May 8,

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◆ The gardens at Willow Oaks, the country home of Pamela Harriman, are on the Middleburg Garden Tour.

# Tours

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transportation will be provided with a docent who will give historical information about Capitol Hill. A reception, 6 to 8 p.m., will follow at the U.S. Botanical Gardens. Advance tickets: \$12; \$15 on tour days. A combination ticket for the tour and reception costs \$22. 202-543-0425;

**Georgetown Garden Tour, May 14, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.** More than a dozen gardens, the Renwick Chapel of historic Oak Hill Cemetery, the Italianate garden of "Evermay" and Dumbarton House are featured on this tour, offered for the 66th year. One garden received the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Certificate of Merit, which cited its multitude of low-maintenance plants; another on the west side of Wisconsin Avenue features an ancient millstone used as a fountain to center the long narrow area densely planted with perennials, dwarf bamboo and native grasses. Advance tickets: \$12; \$15 for tickets purchased after April 30. 202-333-6896.

**Embassy Tour, May 14, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.** Participants on the 48th Annual Goodwill Embassy Tour will have an opportunity to walk through eight embassies: Bolivia, Colombia, Greece, Indonesia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Guatemala and Pakistan. One of the most famous rooms of all embassy residences is South Africa's dining room. It is paneled in the extremely rare native stinkwood, which is used for most of the major furniture throughout the house and is so named because of the pungent aroma given off when the wood has been freshly cut. Another attraction, the chancery of Indonesia, is referred to as the historic Walsh mansion, which represents the influence of a rich and diversified period. The mansion was designed by Danish architect Henry Anderson to resemble places Thomas F. Walsh had admired in Europe. It was the onetime home of the parents of Evalyn Walsh McLean, the owner of the famous Hope diamond. Although it is possible to walk the tour, which is held throughout Embassy Row, a complimentary shuttle bus will run from the embassies to the parking lot of the Naval Communications Center, 4401 Massachusetts Ave. NW. Advance tickets: \$25; \$30 on tour day: 202-636-4225, ext. 1255 or 1226.

**Dupont Circle Gardens, June 5, 2 to 5 p.m.** Ten backyard gardens in the area east of 16th Street will be featured. Advance tickets: \$9; \$10 on tour day, includes a buffet dinner served from 3 to 6 p.m. 202-265-5961.

**Hillcrest Garden Tour, June 25, 10 a.m. to noon.** Nine gardens within a three-block radius in Southeast Washington are featured. Highlights along this free tour, offered for the third year by the Hillcrest Community Civic Association, include a 1939 Spanish style with native western architecture and a natural stone waterfall flowing into a lily and fish pond surrounded by colorful annuals. 202-582-4957.

## MARYLAND

**Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, April 30 to May 15.** Six tours throughout five counties and Baltimore's Mount Vernon area will take place during the state's 57th annual pilgrimage. Among the areas on the tours held on various dates, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., are Queen Anne's County, home of Kent Island, one of the oldest communities in the country, which was settled between 1628 and 1631, and St. Mary's County, which lies on the peninsula bounded by the "Oyster Waters"—the Patuxent and Potomac rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. An 85-page guidebook lists each tour and describes each attraction. Tickets: \$20; \$5 for a single house; children are charged full ticket prices. An 84-page guidebook describing each tour may be ordered by sending \$2 for postage to Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, 1105 A Providence Rd., Towson, Md. 21286. 410-821-6933.

**Talbot County, May 7, 10 a.m.**

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◆ ASID's Sunday Snoop House Tour features five examples of interiors by local designers including this chintz-filled room created by Penne Poole in a Tudor house.

to 5 p.m. This tour, part of the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, takes place throughout a county settled by the English circa 1661, which still retains much of its 17th-century atmosphere and architecture. Included are a farmhouse transformed into a Victorian cottage with a rooftop gazebo; another has a modern kitchen, family room and sun room that have been built into the old kitchen wing of a post-revolutionary brick structure, and Asago, a contemporary residence inspired by traditional Japanese architecture where guests will be asked to observe the tradition of removing their shoes upon entering. The gardens of Wycliff, a property that looks out on the Wye River, include a garden designed for quiet contemplation and a daffodil walk overlooking the river. Tickets: \$20; \$5 for a single house. Before May 1, participants may reserve a box lunch for an additional \$6.45. 410-822-1701.

**Garden Conservancy Tour in Maryland** will be held May 14 throughout Green Spring Valley and Monkton. Four gardens in the Baltimore area are showcased in this tour sponsored by the Garden Conservancy. One garden includes five acres of shade gardens intended to replicate forms of the owners' collection of Baltimore and Boston neoclassical furniture and American impressionist paintings; another is composed of six areas including a cottage garden, a secret garden enclosed

by a formal parterre and a southern lagoon garden. On that day, visitors also will be entitled to visit Ladew Topiary Gardens for discounted admission, \$6; \$4 for the gardens only. Tickets: \$35; \$50 for a family, includes membership and admittance to eight East Coast Garden Conservancy tours. Registration is required by May 1. 914-265-2029.

**Progressive Dinner and House Tour in Rockville, May 14.** This tour, sponsored for the 16th year by Peerless Rockville historic preservation organization, features a five-course meal served formally at six locations on West Montgomery Avenue. There will be food or beverages at all but one site. All of the homes were built between 1890 and the mid-1920s. Starting times for the progressive meal and tour are 5, 6, 7 and 8 p.m. Tickets: \$50. Reservations are required. 301-762-0096.

**Washington County, May 14, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.** This tour, part of the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, is throughout a county in which many late 18th and early 19th-century log houses remain and the buildings in general are vernacular structures. Attractions include Honeybourne House, which contains an Old English pub room constructed of materials from a nearby barn and a collection of Staffordshire animals and English and American pottery, and Rose Hill, built around 1800 and attributed to Benjamin Henry Latrobe and whose great hall has

exquisite wood carvings over thick cherry doors, which were cut from trees on the property. Tickets: \$20; \$5 per single house; a box lunch will be served for \$7. 301-739-5815.;

**Historic Hyattsville House Tour, May 15, 1 to 5 p.m.** About 10 structures identified as having architectural or historical significance by the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission and the County Historic Sites and Districts Plan are featured in this 15th annual tour. One of the residences, of outstanding Stick Style detail, has a hipped and cross-gabled roof and a T-shaped floor plan; a house built in the 1880s is a unique example of a late Victorian suburban retreat cottage that is distinguished by its Queen Anne-style trim and its prominent three-story veranda. Offered for the 15th year, this walking tour takes 2½ hours and begins at the Hyattsville Municipal Building, 4310 Gallatin St. Tickets: \$7 in advance; \$8 on tour day. 301-927-4514.;

**Rockville Walking Tours** are scheduled during lunchtime hours in late May and early June. Walkers will wind their way through three National Register historic districts, learning about two centuries of Rockville's history and architecture. The one-hour tours will begin and end at the 1891 Red Brick Courthouse, 29 Courthouse Square. Cost: \$5. A similar tour, for \$10, includes a brief stop for a bag lunch in a 19th-century cemetery. Sponsored by Peerless Rockville historic preservation organization. Reservations are required. For exact dates, call 301-762-0096.

## VIRGINIA

**Historic Garden Week in Virginia, April 23 to 30.** The Garden Club of Virginia's 61st annual event features 37 tours of outstanding houses, gardens and historical sites throughout the state. The tours, sponsored by area garden clubs on various dates, highlight varied themes, periods and offerings. The tour in Virginia Beach focuses on waterfront living and boating and includes an hour-long bay cruise; one in Petersburg highlights Sears, Roebuck and Co. catalogue houses. Specific attractions include a house on the Franklin town landscaped with oak trees brought in from South Carolina. A 196-page guidebook with descriptions of each tour can be ordered by writing to Historic Garden Week Headquarters, 12 E. Franklin St., Richmond, Va. 23219 (enclose \$2 for postage) or by calling 804-644-7776.

**Old Town Alexandria Tour, April 23, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** Five privately owned Old Town Alexandria residences and three gardens in the southern portion of Old Town are featured this

year. Admission that day only to four historic sites, River Farm, Mount Vernon, Woodlawn Plantation and Gunston Hall, also is included. The private dwellings on the tour date from 1789; several once were owned by early leading citizens of Alexandria. Their interiors retain original fixtures including fireplaces, decorative moldings, doors, windows and wooden floors and are decorated with modern art, Oriental rugs and Japanese prints. Horticultural attractions include walled gardens, perennial borders, stately old trees, spring bulbs and azaleas, flowering shrubs and boxwood. Sponsored by the Hunting Creek Garden Club and the Garden Club of Alexandria as part of Historic Garden Week in Virginia. Tickets: \$15; \$3 for single house and garden admission, includes a tea at the Lyceum. 703-838-5005.

**McLean House and Garden Tour**, April 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This tour, offered for the first time and sponsored by St. John's Episcopal Church, features five structures. A Colonial house with a room referred to as the "Doll House Room" because of its lighted doll house and doll collection; a residence on Georgetown Pike that reflects its owners' love of gardening through a garden room, floral motifs and antique botanical prints, and a one inspired by George Washington's greenhouse at Mount Vernon, which was built with bricks fired in the same kiln used to make the bricks for Gunston Hall, are open. Advance tickets: \$12; \$15 on tour day. 703-356-4902.

**Old Town Manassas Spring Stroll**, April 24, 1 to 5 p.m. features homes and gardens along historic West Street in Manassas. The styles of architecture range from the Victorian period to the present. Among the eight houses, two with gardens that will be toured are a turn-of-the-century building with a "smoking porch" used in some scenes of the 1950s movie, "My Son John," and a row house with a collection of Indian Kachina dolls. Another exemplifies American Four Square design, a turn-of-the-century, two-story hipped-roof style popular because it allowed more space for the money. Sponsored by the Manassas Museum Associates. Advance tickets: \$10; \$12 on tour day, includes free admission to the Manassas Museum and the Rohr's Museum. 703-368-1873.

**Middleburg/Upperville Area Tour**, April 24, 1 to 5 p.m., April 25, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Attractions along this tour, part of Historic Garden Week in Virginia and sponsored by the Fauquier-Loudoun Garden Club

and the Leesburg Garden Club, include one of the oldest houses in western Loudoun County, built of fieldstone and later stuccoed to protect the mortar, a 400-acre thoroughbred farm nestled at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains and an estate with a swimming pool surrounded with Italian lead statuary and numerous outbuildings, such as a church and a smokehouse with very rare 200-year-old cedar of Lebanon growing on the property. Tickets: \$20; \$5 for single house admission. 703-592-3209.

**Hopewell Tour in Petersburg**, April 28, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Five Sears, Roebuck and Co. houses are featured, a garden and Weston Manor, an 18th-century house that was built as a wedding gift and retains 85 percent of its original interior woodwork and windows are also included. This tour, through an eclectic neighborhood developed in the 1920s and 1930s and stocked with at least 44 houses ordered through the Sears catalogue, includes visits to a three types of Sears models, including one with a gabled-roof portico and columns and another with the original telephone niche, a Sears trademark. Many of the original details, including bookcases and floors, as well as interesting collections of pressed glass and pillboxes are highlights. Sponsored by the Petersburg Garden Club as part of Historic Garden Week in Virginia. Tickets: \$10; \$3 for single house admission; box lunches may be purchased for \$6. 804-458-4682.

**Fairfax House and Garden Tour**, April 29, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This tour, sponsored by the Garden Club of Fairfax and part of the annual Historic Garden Week in Virginia celebration, features five houses and gardens, a historic church and a reconstructed railroad museum, all reflecting a variety of architectural styles and periods. A restored Victorian residence, a 200-year-old cabin moved from Tennessee and now used as a guest house, a neo-Georgian mansion and a Williamsburg-style residence backed by a six-acre pond are included. Advance tickets: \$12; \$15 on tour day from St. Mary's Church, Route 123 and Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station, Va. Box lunch, \$7.50, is available by reservation by calling 703-759-0151. For tour tickets, 703-385-8094.

**Garden Conservancy Tour in Virginia**, April 30, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Charlottesville. Patricia Kluge's terraced garden laid out in 1989 by the landscape firm Francois Goffinet Ltd. behind Albemarle House is on this tour sponsored by the Garden Conservancy. Kluge's garden uses hedges and water influenced by the classical tradition of the 17th and 18th centuries. Two

other gardens include one planted in a naturalistic style with a broad range of plants including magnolias, hollies, Chinese maples, crab apples and parrotia and another, a work in progress for 45 years that illustrates a solution to a sloping city lot. It includes a gazebo, a wildflower garden and a lily pond. Tickets: \$35; \$50 for a family, includes membership in the Garden Conservancy and admittance to eight East Coast garden conservancy tours. Registration deadline is April 15. 914-265-2029.

**Great Falls House Tour**, May

Oatlands Plantation highlights the "secret gardens" of historic Leesburg. In addition to the formal gardens of Oatlands and Oak Hill, the early 19th-century estate of president James Monroe with a garden that contains dinosaur tracks left 170 million years ago, participants also can see gardens in town, including a quaint tucked-away walled garden with a waterfall and a lily-padded fish pond. Included among the public buildings that will be open are a 1767 log cabin and two historic churches. All of the gardens are owned by patrons of Oatlands.

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▲ *Barbara Bolling Woodward's Georgetown garden features a millstone fountain surrounded by lush vegetation. The narrow row house garden was designed by Oehme, van Sweden & Associates.*

6, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., sponsored by St. Catherine of Siena Parish. Tourists will walk through five choices: a contemporary structure built in a ravine; an 18th-century dwelling with gravestones in the bedrooms, a house owned by an interior decorator with a collection of miniature chairs, a house in which the owners removed each knotty pine panel and bleached and pickled them before replacing them, and one built in the mid-1700s that has a spring-fed swimming pool. Tickets: \$12; \$5 for a luncheon. 703-759-4350.

**Parkfairfax Garden Tour**, May 7, 1 to 4 p.m. Ten gardens including a courtyard perennial garden, shady patio gardens and entry gardens are featured in this tour throughout the 1940s town-house community in which former presidents Gerald Ford and Richard Nixon once lived. Tickets: \$3. 703-931-3530.

**Country Gardens Tour**, May 7 and 8, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The third annual tour sponsored by

Tickets: \$15; \$5 per single garden. 703-777-3174.

**Clifton Homes Tour**, May 19, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Five locations on the tour within the historic town of Clifton, which started out as a summer getaway for Washingtonians, include an 1880 brothel and tavern that retains some of the original architectural details, a residence that has served as a store, a church and a saloon and a house that includes a display of Civil War memorabilia. Sponsored by the Clifton Community Women's Club. Tickets: \$10. 703-830-0333 and 830-3418.

**Waterford Garden Tour and Art Mart**, May 21 and 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The fourth annual tour within the national historic landmark village founded by Quakers in 1733 features the gardens of 10 private properties, ranging from secluded boxwood-enclosed terraces to expansive hilltop settings with vistas of the surrounding countryside. Along the way, vendors will sell artworks from

local and regional artists and garden and landscape items, including seedlings, plants, baskets and statuary. Advance tickets \$9; \$10 after May 16. 703-882-3018.

**Middleburg Garden Tour**, May 21 and 22, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Six gardens spread throughout the area's horse and hunt country are featured. The self-guided tour will include a variety of gardens, from cottage gardens located in the village to estate gardens nestled in the gently rolling countryside. Included is the Ambassador to France Pamela Harriman's Willow Oaks, which includes views of the stream below, water gardens and terraces lined with espaliered apple trees. Another site includes a walled formal garden with parterres and herbaceous borders, a kitchen garden with fruits and vegetables, shrubbery planted to attract birds and butterflies and a koi pond. Sponsored by the Town of Middleburg. Tickets: \$10. 703-787-9483.

**Hunt Country Stable Tour**, May 28 and 29, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Middleburg and Upperville. Visitors will see Rokeby, home of racehorse owner Paul Mellon; the Tennessee Walking horses of Washington Redskins' owner Jack Kent Cooke; and more than a dozen other stables. Other attractions and demonstrations throughout the tour include Spanish Andalusians, a yearling farm, a polo match and carriage driving. Sponsored by Trinity Episcopal Church. Tickets: \$18; \$5 per single attraction. A country luncheon will be available. 703-592-3711.

## METROPOLITAN AREA

**Solar Homes Tour**, May 15, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. This tour, sponsored by the Sierra Club and Virginia Solar Council, focuses on energy-saving designs throughout the Washington metropolitan area. Approximately 20 houses, including geodesic domes, underground passive solar dwellings and styles that incorporate recycled materials into the building are included. An "off the grid" home near Annapolis, which uses photovoltaic collectors to generate electricity, will be included. Tourists will see houses that feature passive energy-saving structural elements, including concrete walls and stone flooring to store the sun's heat, and active methods, including high-tech equipment, such as solar panels coupled with a pump system to circulate heat. Tickets: \$10; \$15 for two tickets. 202-260-1088, 703-768-3108.

—Jene Stonesifer