

Historic Garden Week

**Dolley Madison Garden Club
Orange County, Virginia**

features

Greene and Madison Counties

April 20, 2024 • 10 am to 5 pm



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This year's Orange County Tour features beautiful properties in Greene and Madison Counties—Orange County's neighbors. The Blue Ridge Mountains provide a scenic backdrop for five historic, land-rich properties, all under conservation easement. Each with a different historic use, these gardened landscapes have been adapted to meet the needs of both current owners and wildlife inhabitants. By controlling invasive plants, preserving forests, planting wildflower meadows, and integrating native trees and plants, each property demonstrates a different approach to incorporating nature into garden design. With architectural styles ranging from country cottage to grand mansion, owners have created a place for themselves and birds, pollinators, and wildlife.

Wander, Discover, Be Inspired...

Hosted by Dolley Madison Garden Club

orange@vagardenweek.org | @historicgardenweekorangeva
www.dmgcvirginia.org

Historic Garden Week ♦ Garden Club of Virginia Saturday, April 20, 2024 ♦ 10 am to 5:00 pm

ADVANCE TICKETS: \$30 per person at www.vagardenweek.org, Children 6-12 \$15; Available until noon on April 19th at The Laurie Holladay Shop in Gordonsville, The Market at Grelen in Somerset, and The Arts Center in Orange.

TICKETS: \$40 per person available at www.vagardenweek.org and at each location day of tour. Children 6-12 \$20; children 5 and under free of charge. *Ticket includes admission to all five properties.*

FACILITIES: Available at The Blue Ridge School and Rapidan Hunt Club (Shuttle Stop, 826 Shelby Road, Madison).

PARKING/SHUTTLE: Parking is available at each location, with the exception of Windy Pines. 🚌 Shuttle stop and parking are nearby at the Rapidan Hunt Club, 826 Shelby Drive, Madison.

LUNCH: Box lunches available by pre-order from Maybelle's Market – by April 13th at mymaybelles.com. \$7-13. Day of tour lunches available at Maybelle's, The Exchange Café, Prince Michel Vineyard & Winery, and at Grelen Nursery. Picnics may be enjoyed at Blue Ridge School and Ducard Vineyard. See maps.

IMPORTANT: This tour is not handicap accessible and involves extensive walking. Please wear comfortable walking shoes; featured homes and gardens include steps and uneven-sloping terrain.



The Anne duPont Garden at James Madison's Montpelier

PLACES OF INTEREST

MONTPELIER: 11350 Constitution Highway, Montpelier Station. Home of the fourth President of the United States, James Madison, and his wife, Dolley. The main house has undergone a nationally acclaimed restoration to its original 1820 design. Explore the mansion, old-growth forest, exhibits honoring the Enslaved Community, and the Gilmore Cabin. The Garden Club of Virginia assisted Montpelier with restoration projects of the Annie duPont Garden in 1990 and 2005.

DUCARD VINEYARDS: Boutique winery in a Majestic Mountain setting, #1 Virginia Green Winery for environmental stewardship and sustainability. Visit to see their incredible display of 12,000 tulips in bloom. 400 Gibson Hollow Lane, Etlan, VA.

GORDONSVILLE: A unique blend of European flair and Southern charm with shops and restaurants.

GREENE COUNTY: Convenient access to Skyline Drive and Appalachian Trail. Greene County is the perfect place to explore natural beauty and revitalize your senses.

MADISON COUNTY: Dining, vineyards, breweries, and something for everyone in the great outdoors.

TOWN of ORANGE: Stay, shop, and taste in Downtown Orange.

TOUR SITES

GREENE COUNTY PROPERTIES

BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL
273 Mayo Drive, St. George

HIGHBRIGHTON
1756 Moore Road, Ruckersville

MONTE VISTA FARM*
Monte Vista Lane, just off Route 609,
Stanardsville

ROSEBROOK FARM*
1621 Rosebrook Road, Stanardsville

MADISON COUNTY PROPERTY

WINDY PINES
Accessed via Shuttle Only
Parking and Shuttle stop
at the Rapidan Hunt Club,
826 Shelby Road,
Madison

****Please follow HGW Signage.****
DO NOT RELY ON GPS.

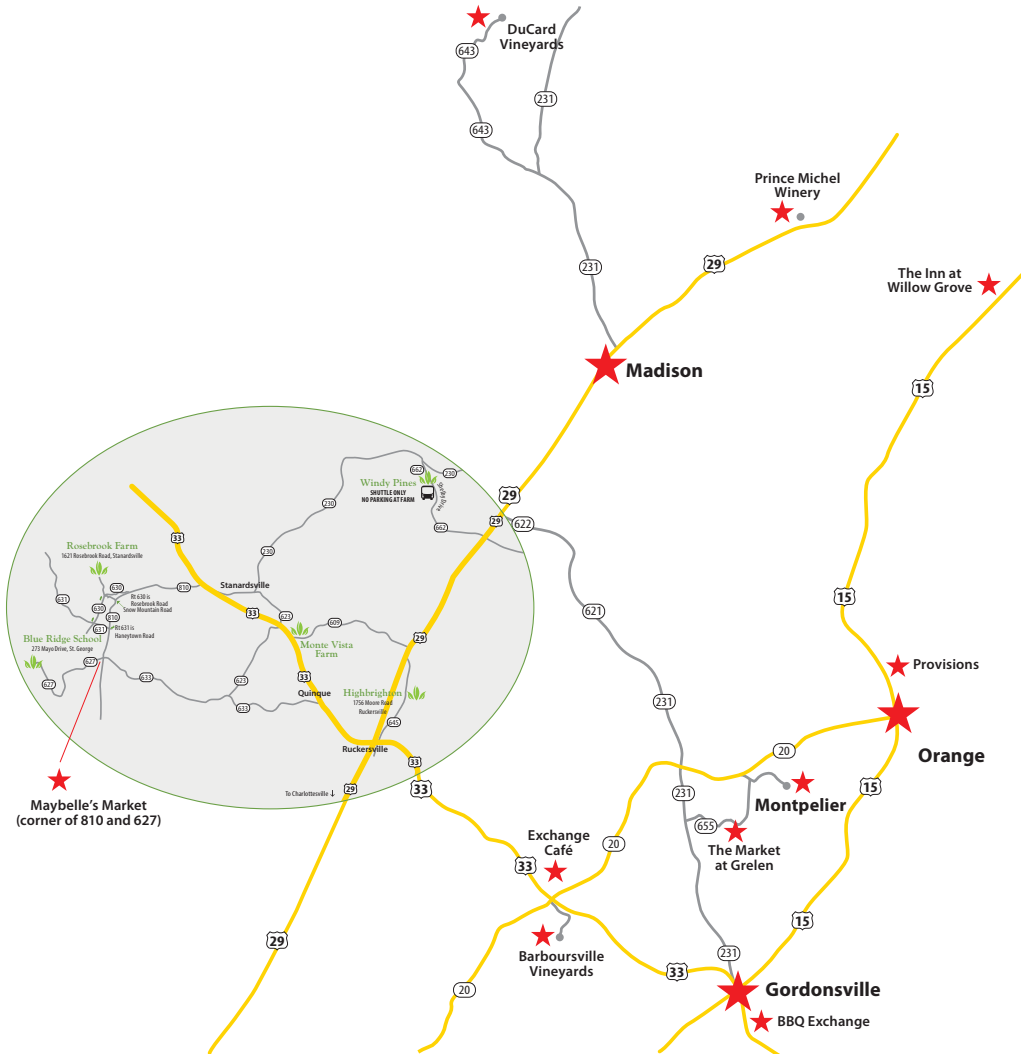
*Directions to Rosebrook Farm and Monte Vista Farm:

Take 33 West from Ruckersville. Turn LEFT onto Rt. 810 (Dyke Road) Turn RIGHT onto Rt. 631 (Haneytown Road). Turn RIGHT onto Rt. 630 (Rosebrook Road). Continue until you reach #1621 on the LEFT. Turn LEFT onto the lane, and continue to RIGHT fork to reach **Rosebrook Farm**. Leaving Rosebrook Farm, turn LEFT onto Rosebrook Road, then RIGHT when it intersects with Rt. 626 (Snow Mountain Road). Go ¼ mile to reach Rt. 810. Turn LEFT to return to Rt. 33 or RIGHT to reach Blue Ridge School.

Take Rt. 33 West from Ruckersville. Turn RIGHT onto Rt. 609. Entrance to **Monte Vista Farm** immediately on LEFT.



AREA MAP



Historic Garden Week ♦ Garden Club of Virginia
Saturday, April 20, 2024 ♦ 10 am to 5:00 pm



BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL

273 MAYO DRIVE, ST. GEORGE

The 750-acre campus of Blue Ridge School, a boys' college preparatory school, sits at the transition between Virginia's rolling piedmont and the mountains. This unique setting—named by Architectural Digest as one of the most beautiful independent schools in America—creates diverse landscapes and habitats to explore. The steep east-facing slope of Brokenback Mountain is a dramatic backdrop for two pollinator meadows bordering Bacon Hollow Road near the entrance gates. Walking trails bisect the 17 acres of native warm-season grasses and wildflowers, which provide essential wildlife habitat throughout the year and vivid color in mid-summer. The Front Lawn is an accredited arboretum enveloping visitors with various ancient canopy trees. Visitors are encouraged to stroll down to the edge of the five-acre lake, a picturesque setting for graduation each spring. Highlights include a newly planted riparian buffer along the small stream that flows out of the lake, an experimental orchard of American chestnut trees near the lake, and a mile-long Interpretative Trail with signage identifying native trees. Gardens encircle the historic Gibson Memorial Chapel and native stone Battle House, both open to HGW visitors.





HIGHBRIGHTON

1756 MOORE ROAD, RUCKERSVILLE

This historic sporting estate was last open for Historic Garden Week in 1996. Long under conservation easement, the 600-acre property is managed as a preserve for bird hunting and wildlife habitat. The home was built in 1835 for Captain Mark Finks. It was sold just before the end of the Civil War to the Sims family, who occupied it until 1896. A family cemetery lies east of the house next to the stone slave cemetery. The three-story, Greek Revival Manor house was the first brick home constructed in Greene County. The home, with its original columned porches, was beautifully restored to its late Federal-style grandeur and features breathtaking views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Peacocks stroll the surrounding gardens. A traditional fountain serves as the parterre centerpiece of the principal garden. An allée of the flowering fruit trees and azaleas frame the formal garden. Mature dogwood, redbud, and other hardwoods were moved from elsewhere on the property in consultation with the VA Department of Forestry. Although the house is not open for touring, there is plenty to discover on the extensive grounds. This includes the pool and pool house, car barn, pickleball courts, and the large spring-fed lake. The car barn rewards with perfectly restored antique Bentley, Jaguar, and Cadillac cars, relics of a former elegant age.

Joan and Robert Allen, owners





MONTE VISTA FARM

MONTE VISTA LANE, JUST OFF ROUTE 609,
STANARDSVILLE

Once a cattle farm, Monte Vista Farm is situated on over 500 acres of rolling fields and woodlands at the eastern foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The current owners have re-envisioned it as conservation land and an organic farm, collaborating with Wolf Josey Landscape Architects on the design since 2014. Several acres of hay fields have been converted into native wildflower meadows. Reforestation has been undertaken with ongoing removal of invasives and stream restoration. The extensive grasslands host a diverse range of bird species and were surveyed in 2019 by Virginia Working Landscapes, a program of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute. The property's core is a large barn surrounded by a landscape of native grasses, hedges, allées, and gardens. The north side of the barn, converted into the family's residence, overlooks an extensive native perennial garden with dramatic mountain views. To the south of the barn is a working landscape where rows of berry plants and maple trees lead to a hilltop organic vegetable garden and fruit orchard. Honeybees and a pollinator meadow reside nearby. Allow time to enjoy the many paths and vistas available. **Please note, GPS directions will not be accurate. Instead, follow HGW signage.**

Jessica and Patrick Fenn, owners





ROSEBROOK FARM

1621 ROSEBROOK ROAD, STANARDSVILLE

The current owners are devoted to conservation: a retired garden writer and photographer and the leader of Blue Ridge PRISM, an organization educating the public about harmful invasive plants. For ten years they have been working to control invasive plants and encourage native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers on this 156-acre property. To foster biodiversity and increase habitat for birds, animals, and insects, they established a non-timbering easement, transformed 15 acres of hayfield into native warm-season grass and wildflower meadows, and planted stream buffers. The cottage-style home is a remodeled pole-barn horse stable surrounded by exuberant gardens. Another adjacent pole-barn housing tractors, office, and guest quarters, is fronted by a pea gravel patio and informal flower gardens. The existing formal garden, designed by C. Colston Burrell, was adapted by the current owner to reflect her garden ethic. Though dozens of the previous owner's beloved peonies were left in place, many perennials were replaced with showy-flowered natives. A pergola supports native vines, and invasive ornamentals in the borders were replaced with native plants. The gardens feature rock walls and paths built of stones collected from the property. A walled vegetable and herb garden near the kitchen is designed as a French potager. Mowed walking paths lead through wildflower meadows with a view of the pond and forest. **Please note, GPS directions will not be accurate. Instead, follow HGW signage.**

Susan Austin Roth and Jim Hurley, owners





WINDY PINES

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A long drive leads from a wooded entrance through the fields of wildflowers to reveal the house, dramatically sited on a hillside overlooking a tranquil pond. With sloping roof lines and tall windows, Windy Pines, built in 2022, echoes the surrounding terrain. It addresses the owners' current needs and appears part of the natural landscape. The interior reflects the owners' world travels. A large entrance hall leads to an expansive living and dining area, highlighted by a 17-foot fireplace encased with Italian onyx. A wall cabinet facing the fireplace was designed to accommodate the owners' extensive collection of Asian artifacts. An Italian commercial-style kitchen and pantry is the home's "star" feature. The outdoor living space includes an enormous terrace with an outdoor living room and kitchen. An evocative natural landscape by landscape architect Anne Pray boasts a semi-circular garden ringed with native trees and wildflower beds, framing a picturesque view over forest and fields to the distant mountains. Once part of a larger agricultural farm, the property has been in a conservation easement for 20 years.

Ann and Bill Tidball, owners





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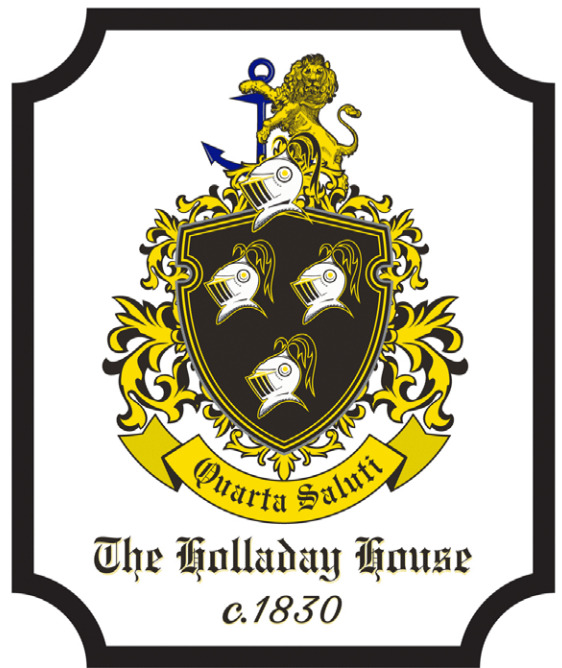


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A photograph of an outdoor patio area. In the foreground, there is a square table with a dark metal frame and a glass top, surrounded by four matching chairs. A large, light-colored patio umbrella stands over the table. In the background, there are more tables and chairs, and lush greenery with pink flowers. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and inviting.

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