



## Honoring our early Founders Throughout FLGC's 100th year

### Mrs. Thomas Neville Atkinson

Friend of Lucy Morison

Since this is the 100th anniversary of FLGC, we are honoring some of our early founders and members who were instrumental in creating the club we have today. On this particular occasion we honored Mrs. Thomas (Neville) Atkinson who was a founder of Hill School (thus our location for the April meeting) as well as an innovator in gardening. Because of this, I invited Christine Reynolds, Mrs. Atkinson's granddaughter, to attend.  
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*Lucy Morison and Christine Reynolds at Larry Weaner's presentation at The Hill School April 15*

### Carolyn H. White

Daphne Cheatham's grandmother



*Mrs. Belmont & Caroline Hulbert between ca. 1915 and ca. 1920 Library of Congress glass negative*

My grandmother Carolyn Hulbert White, moved to Middleburg around 1925, when she was getting a divorce from my mother's father, Raymond Belmont. They lived at "Stray Shot"; now The Stray Fox.

# Stories of Our Founders *continued*

## Mrs. Thomas Neville Atkinson

*continued from page one*

Although I am no relation to Christine, we have kept up with one another as friends. She is however, a cousin of my son, Dulany Morison who was also in attendance. Mrs. Atkinson was almost like a grandmother to me, knowing her as I did, since my childhood, teaching me most of what I know today about plants. Both Christine and her sister, Neville Holter, are inspired gardeners. According to Christine, the greatest praise that her grandmother ever gave about other ladies was to say, "She was a great garden club member." *Lucy Morison*

## Miss Neville Lemmon Elizabeth Courts relations

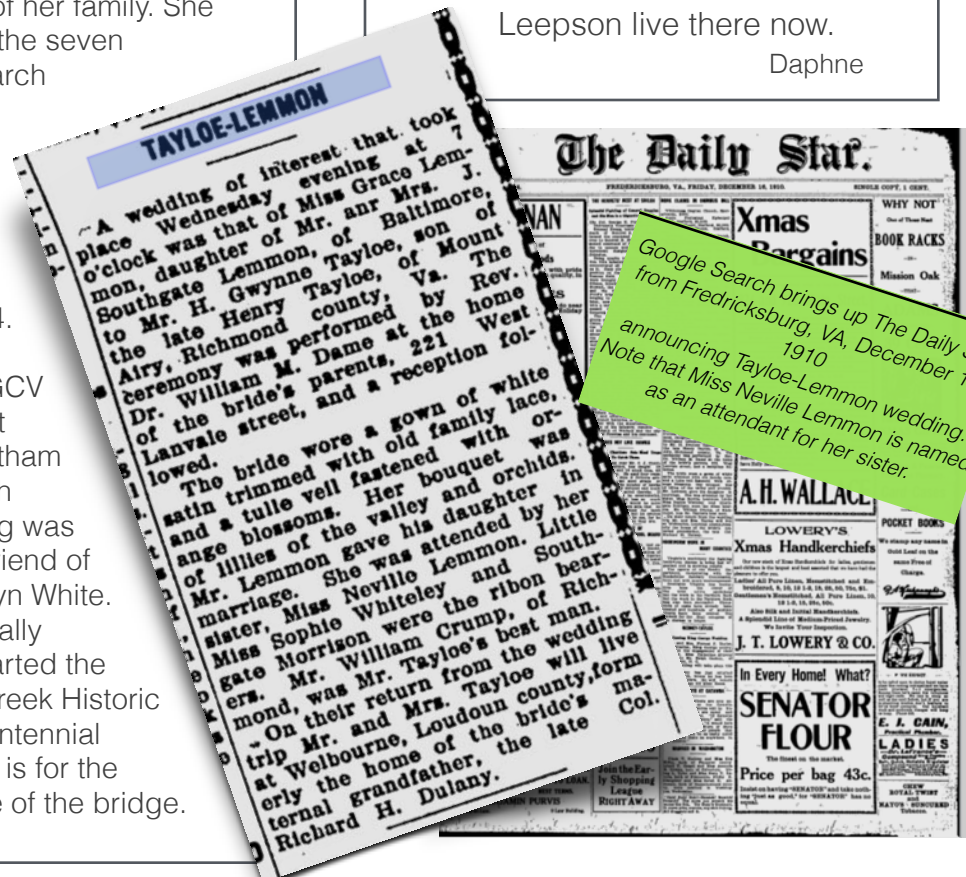
Elizabeth Courts is related to the Tayloes and Lemmons on both sides of her family. She showed a photograph of the seven Lemmon sisters at the March meeting at Welbourne. Grace L. Tayloe was President of Fauquier & Loudoun Garden Club from 1930-1933 and Annie L. Morison was President from 1940-1944. Elizabeth showed a silver cup won in 1932 at The GCV Daffodil Show, for the Test Collection. Daphne Cheatham shared that Miss Elizabeth Lemmon, who the meeting was in honor of; was a great friend of her grandmother's, Carolyn White. Ann MacLeod said that Sally Morison, Nat's mother, started the account for The Goose Creek Historic Bridge in 1976, as a Bicentennial Project. This was and still is for the upkeep and maintenance of the bridge.

## Carolyn H. White

There was no place for children to go to school, at that time, so The Hill School was started by her, Mrs. Atkinson, and several others. The first time, so The Hill School was started by her, Mrs. Atkinson, and several others. The first location was behind The Iron Jockey, in the tiny building which later was taken over by Chub Lee for his tack repair business. The space was soon outgrown and then was moved to Hill's existing location. Soon after this time, she met Arthur White, they married, and bought the land on 611, West of Middleburg, and built the lovely stone house, known as Chilton. My Uncle Ridgely White was born there, and was my mother's (Bettina Belmont Ward) half brother.

The farm still exists today, but is smaller because some parcels were sold off. Mark and Janna Leepson live there now.

Daphne



Google Search brings up The Daily Star from Fredricksburg, VA, December 16, 1910 announcing Tayloe-Lemmon wedding. Note that Miss Neville Lemmon is named as an attendant for her sister.



# Larry Weaner

## Natural Design

### Real World Strategies

Larry is nationally recognized for combining a unique blend of environmental science and fine garden design to create sweeping landscapes and natural areas.

We were very fortunate to bring him from Philadelphia for our members and guests. Just next month, he will be honored by the Garden Club of America and he is busy trying to finish up a book so he is a very busy designer.

Larry's sensible utilization of the natural colonization of our native plants is foremost in creating designed natural areas that minimize maintenance and maximize natural evolution. Shrubs like grey dogwood are very effective.

By analyzing the soils and seed bank of a site, desirable plants can be encouraged and others controlled by simply understanding the balance of competition. For instance short term meadow plants can be seeded early to shade out weeds while desirable long term plants are slowly developing a strong root structure.

Pulling weeds just wakes up a seed bank. Because it is not realistic to pull weeds in a large landscape it becomes important to



identify the plants that need to be weakened and cut them and shade them out.

A plan that embraces the aggressive qualities of some plants and shades out others is the answer. Ultimately, the goal is to create a wildlife friendly and naturalistic landscape that becomes easier to maintain over time and provides large sweeps of beautiful views that are sustainable for the owner, wildlife and the environment.



Harriett Condon, FLGC President, with hostesses, Janna Leepson and Kaye Nazarian in the Hill School Theater.



Conservation exhibit showcases benefits of native plants



Landon Butler (Carol's husband), with Hill School members Lois Johnson-Meade (Science teacher), Trevor Lord (Head of School), Larry Weaner and Tom Northrup (former Head)

## **Garden Club of Virginia 2015 Horticulture Field Day**

### **Winchester and Clarke County**

register before May 20th  
www.gcvirginia.org  
\$55 per person

**Wednesday, May 27 10:30 - 5 pm**

#### **Winchester**

Patsy and Norman Smith  
521 South Washington Street

Dr. Peter Gill Bullough  
122 West Cork Street

JoAnn and Thomas Larsen  
601 Dulles Circle

Kathleen and William Quarles  
1022 Heath Place

Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum  
19 West Cork  
\*“green roof” and observation deck

Handley High School  
425 Handley Blvd.

**Thursday, May 28 8:30 - 1:30 pm**

#### **Clarke County**

Carolyn and Mazen Farouki  
“Claytonville”  
574 Clay Hill Road, Boyce

Tressa Borland and Frank Reuling  
494 Llewellyn Lane  
Berryville

Elizabeth Locke and John Staelin  
“Clay Hill”  
859 Clay Hill Road, Boyce

Ilona and Harry Benham III  
“The Briars”  
2713 Pyletown Road, Boyce

Burwell-Morgan Mill  
Box Lunches  
15 Tannery Lane, Millwood

## **FLGC Business**

Elizabeth Courts has agreed to be our First Vice President, replacing Barbara Merchant, who we are sorry to say has resigned. Thank you to Elizabeth who will hold this post for the remainder of this term.

### **Upcoming Programs**

**May 7**

#### **Sandy's Plants**

**Nursery Tour, Plant Shopping and Picnic**

**Rare and Unusual Perennials, 2000 varieties**

**in Mechanicsville**

**email Missy by Monday night to plan carpool**

**May 20 2 pm Tea**

#### **Planning and Producing Flowers for a Wedding**

Widely featured throughout the wedding and event industry, Holly's work has been published in Martha Stewart, Southern Living, Brides....

**Holly Heider Chapple**

**at Huntland, courtesy of Betsee Parker**

**June 15 - 18**

#### **Garden Club of Virginia 73rd**

#### **Annual Lily Show**

**Foxcroft School**

**July 15 2 pm Tea**

#### **Garden Elements**

A tour and discussion with Jeannie Perin showcasing her unique personal garden details and design choices.

**Jeannie Perin**

**Edgewood, Upperville**

## A Letter from our President

*9 March 2015*

*Dear Ladies,*

*We have been approached by the CIVIL WAR TRUST (CWT) in conjunction with the NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY (NVRPA) to purchase our Historic Goose Creek Bridge and all surrounding property. Their goal is to add the adjoining hillside property to the east belonging to VDOT making the entire area into an historic natural preserve.*

*Little would change since the land is well protected by the easements that we have put in place and our club would be an active partner in all aspects of the future life of the park. The benefits would be that upkeep, maintenance, and liability would no longer be our club's responsibility. The downside would be our loss of status as "owners of an historic bridge".*

*NVRPA has been acquiring a number of local sites in the last few years. Among them are the Mount Zion Historic Church with the 100 acre preserve at the Watson Road Roundabout which adjoins the additional land surrounding Gilbert's Corner ( a PEC project); the Aldie Mill; the large tract of land above Leesburg that encompasses the original White's Ferry landing; and, most recently, the Mount Defiance property (formerly owned by Dr. and Mrs. Rufus Humphrey) here in Middleburg. These lands are now preserved forever and will provide a wonderful backdrop for historical presentation.*

*I ask that you carefully consider this proposal since nothing will go forward without approval from you. But we do need to make our decision within a reasonable time.*

*Please discuss it with each other and call either me or Childs Burden with any questions that you might have.*

*Thank you very much.*

*Sincerely,*

*Harriett Condon*



## Are Morning Glories Pretty Plants? Or Invasive Weeds?

I found this interesting article on a website called, **Gardens Alive!**

[www.gardensalive.com](http://www.gardensalive.com)

*Environmentally Responsible Products that Work!*

**Q. Mike:** I have very little area in which to garden. One plant I find to be trainable and easy to grow is the morning glory. I help the vines find their way onto fences out back and electrical poles out front. Some of my neighbors love them; others call them a "noxious weed". If my vines aren't growing over other living plants, *are* they 'weeds'? Is the term "weed" purely objective, or is there a subjective view of what is and is not a weed? And *should* my neighbors be afraid? Am I helping to propagate something terrible; or am I growing a beautiful flowering vine that softens the view of concrete and asphalt? Thanks for your input.

• ---Bruce in Center City Philadelphia

**A.** There are two famous 'definition' quotes in my business, Bruce: "A perennial is a plant that, had you not killed it, would have lived for many years" and "A weed is a wonderful plant growing in the wrong place."

Let's take running bamboo as an example. It's a beautiful four season plant that produces incredibly useful wood, provides cover for wildlife and can be used to make great trellises, **bean poles**, arbors and other garden supports. (It's also the strain of bamboo that's the source of the edible treat known as bamboo shoots!) But its 'running' habit can overwhelm natural areas, lawns, gardens and even structures. In a dedicated

area where it is restrained on all sides, it is a sensational plant. When placed where it can grow unchecked into wild areas or the property of others, it is the most noxious of weeds.

(Note: If you love the look of bamboo but don't want to risk becoming a horticultural terrorist, check out the many varieties of clumping bamboo—equally beautiful, but eminently more well-behaved.)

Perhaps *the* most currently vilified 'weed' is garlic mustard. It secretes compounds that kill surrounding plants—including big honkin' trees. It threatens a native butterfly by *looking* like its host plant, but is instead toxic. And deer won't eat it, so they devour native plants while this monster spreads unchecked. But it is edible by us humans, with flavors of **garlic**, mustard and **horse radish**; it may have great potential as a medicinal plant; and it is reportedly not a problem in Europe or other areas where it's considered Native. Weed here; useful plant there.

I personally grow a lot of plants that others call weeds. My family *loves* the sweet, flavorful, raspberry-like fruits of the escaped ornamental known as 'wine berry', and so I protect every brilliantly red cane that appears on our property. I anxiously await the thousands of sulfur-colored flowers that bloom up and down the *dramatically* tall spikes of **mullein**—bees and other **beneficial insects** love the small flowers as well—and always leave a few plants in place, even when they pop up in my **raised beds**. And wild violets are simply pretty plants whose edible flowers provide the otherwise hard-to-find nutrient rut in in its most natural form.

But all three of those plants drive others to herbicide and bad language.



And so, any morning glories that adorn your personal property are beautiful **annual flowers** that make great use of limited space by growing their vines faithfully up any support you provide. They even reduce summer time cooling costs when they're trailed up a sunny wall, diverting a ton of heat without doing the structural damage that self-clinging vines like ivy can cause.

*But* any vines that escape to sprout up on the property of others are weeds to them. Morning glory vines that are *not* supported by strings, trellis or fencing flop around in an ugly tangle—or climb all over the plants your neighbors had *HOPED* to see. And if they successfully re-seed themselves, they can be a bear to eradicate.

In really warm climes, the morning glories that are annual plants here in the North become perennial, and can *easily* be considered noxious if not controlled. And even though true morning glories *are* annuals—that is, plants that die over winter and technically must be started a new every year—they can drop a *lot* of seed. Some winters—maybe most—those seeds won't survive in areas with freezing temps. But when they *DO*, the number of vines that explode out of the ground in the Spring can be Biblical. It only happened to me once, but it took all summer to get the things under control, and I never planted morning glories again.

Your location favors seed survival because of the heat sink the city creates. And Center City Philly is an *ancient* neighborhood—it contains the two oldest continuously occupied blocks of row homes in the nation—and the houses tend to be jammed together, making it easy for a plant to get communal.

So stop growing them up power poles, where they can easily travel to drop their seed where it isn't wanted (and maybe even make mischief with the odd transformer).

Keep them close to home; don't grow your vines up into areas that will allow them to wander off your property. If a vine starts to get frisky and tries to make a hard right into someone else's backyard, pull it down ASAP.



*Ipomoea* or Morning Glory. This picture is from the Burpee Seeds website - Morning Glory Celestial Mix.

And if you notice the vines returning some Spring without you having had to plant fresh seed, be vigilant! Look for stragglers outside your property, take personal responsibility for them, and pull them up or spray them with white vinegar or other **non-chemical herbicide** on a dry day. Because at *your* house they're probably among the best flowers you can grow. Next door, they're weeds.

Oh and one final note: There *are* white varieties of cultivated morning glory that are as annual in nature as their more familiar blue and purple flowered cousins. But if you didn't *PLANT* white morning glories and white flowers appear on morning glory-like vines, destroy every last one: That's *bindweed*, a noxious perennial that loves to strangle other plants.