

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

A Publication of the Colonial Williamsburg Landscape Department



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The Landscape Department kicked off Colonial Williamsburg's **73rd Annual Garden Symposium**, April 26 – 28. Planned to be held in the Bassett Hall gardens, Mother Nature moved the event indoors at the Cascades Conference Center. Staff set up stations with tools of their trade to demonstrate their skills, recommend best horticultural practices and answer registrants' questions about their own gardens. Staff also provided tours, demonstrations and presentations throughout the weekend. The Colonial Williamsburg Garden Symposium, begun in 1946, is Colonial Williamsburg's oldest annual program and the oldest continuous annual garden program in the country.



Robert Rivers



David Stull



Jake Eisenhart



Clyde Crew, Preston Armstead

Garden Day was held in Williamsburg on Tuesday, April 30th. A tradition since 1929, Historic Garden Week draws nearly 26,000 visitors each year to private homes and gardens in cities and towns across Virginia each spring. Colonial Williamsburg properties on tour this year were Dr. Barraud, Grissell-Hay, and the gardens at the Governor's Palace. Both Landscape and Building Trades in the Operations Division worked hard to make Garden Day a positive experience for the participants that come from all parts of the country.



Dr. Barraud Garden



Matt Childs, arborist apprentice, was recently awarded a scholarship from The Mary and Donald Gonzales Field Experience Fund to attend a workshop that focused on the Single Rope Technique (SRT), the new and innovative way of climbing trees and traversing the canopy. This technique requires less physical energy which allows longer climbs without being fatigued. Arborist **Charles Gardener** also attended so both men could learn a technique that will allow them to perform a wide range of arboriculture tasks safely and more efficiently.

You have probably noticed the renovation of several **orchards** throughout the Historic Area. More than 75 heirloom fruit trees have been planted over the last three years and a reduced mowing schedule has allowed orchard grasses and flowers to become established (borders along paths are still mowed weekly). Flowery meads attract beneficial insects that increase fruit production. Lawns or “maintained turf” did not become popular in America until the late 18th Century. Instead, a sward of meads, or broad expanses of grass and flowers were scythed or grazed upon, depending on the location.



Taliaferro-Cole Orchard