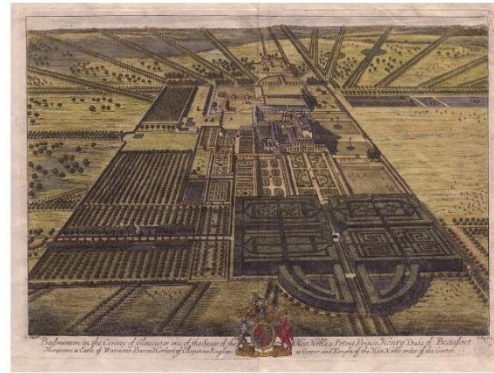


# Colonial Williamsburg

## Colonial Williamsburg's 78th annual Garden Symposium celebrates influence of English gardens on colonial America, April 10-13, 2025

*Scholarships available for students and emerging professionals*



*Images courtesy of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, along with credit and caption information, are available to download [here](#).*

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Jan. 13, 2025) - The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation will host its 77th annual Garden Symposium April 10-13, 2025. Offered both virtually and in-person, this year's conference is organized around influential English gardens and will explore the wide-ranging impact of British gardens. A limited number of in-person and virtual attendance scholarships are available to students and emerging professionals in relevant positions or programs. Visit [colonialwilliamsburg.org/gsscholarship](https://colonialwilliamsburg.org/gsscholarship) to apply by Feb. 7, 2025.

Curators, archaeologists, and gardeners from Colonial Williamsburg will be joined by award-winning authors, gardeners, landscape architects, naturalists, and horticulturalists from both the United Kingdom and the United States. Presentations will address diverse topics including the influence of imported prints on Virginia's early gardens, spring flowering bulbs, gardening in the context of the Age of Exploration, and the horticultural impact of three cultures fusing into one new world during the 17th and 18th centuries.

The opening and closing keynote addresses feature British garden historian and designer **Todd Longstaffe-Gowan** and **Troy Scott Smith**, head gardener at Sissinghurst, one of England's most romantic and iconic landscapes. Additional mainstage presenters include:

- **Will Rieley**, historic landscape architect on such projects as Monticello, Poplar Forest, and Carter's Grove
- **Jack Gary**, Colonial Williamsburg executive director of archaeology
- **Katie McKinney**, Colonial Williamsburg Margaret Beck Pritchard Curator of Maps & Prints
- **Marta McDowell**, acclaimed garden author and avid gardener
- **Brent Heath**, naturalist, author, photographer, and award-winning horticulturalist
- **Jon Lak**, Colonial Williamsburg department of landscape and horticulture manager
- **Andrew Holland**, horticulturalist
- **Eve Otmar**, Colonial Williamsburg Historic Trades master gardener

To register and view the full conference agenda, visit [colonialwilliamsburg.org/gardensymposium](https://colonialwilliamsburg.org/gardensymposium). The majority of conference activities will take place at the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg, located at 301 S. Nassau Street, Williamsburg, VA 23185. A variety of limited-capacity walking tours and workshops are available for in-person registrants, as are [special room rates](#) at Colonial Williamsburg hotel properties.

In-person registration is \$325 per person through March 10 and includes coffee and snacks during breaks, two evening receptions, and presentations as well as access to the conference streaming platform. Virtual-only registration is \$125 per person and includes access to all general session presentations through the conference streaming platform. Both in-person and virtual-only registrations include a seven-day ticket voucher to Colonial Williamsburg's Art Museums and Historic Area, valid for redemption through Dec. 31, 2025. Registration and payment in full are required by March 21 for in-person attendance and by April 10 for virtual attendance.

Garden Symposium is sponsored by Wells Fargo, Historic Garden Week of Virginia, and Virginia Living Magazine. Special thanks to Phoebe Moyer Speaker Fund.

Additional information is available at [colonialwilliamsburg.org/learn/conferences](https://colonialwilliamsburg.org/learn/conferences) or by calling 1-800-603-0948 toll-free or emailing [educationalconferences@cwf.org](mailto:educationalconferences@cwf.org). Follow Colonial Williamsburg on [Facebook](#) and @colonialwmsburg on [Instagram](#) and [X](#).

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**About The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation**

*The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation preserves, restores and operates Virginia's 18th-century capital of Williamsburg. Innovative and interactive experiences highlight the relevance of the American Revolution to contemporary life and the importance of an informed, active citizenry. The Colonial Williamsburg experience includes more than 600 restored or reconstructed original buildings, renowned museums of decorative arts and folk art, extensive educational outreach programs for students and teachers and 18th-century inspired culinary options from historic taverns situated along historic Duke of Gloucester Street. Colonial Williamsburg Resorts complement the experience, offering guests five unique hotel properties including the iconic Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star, AAA Five Diamond Williamsburg Inn, newly renovated Williamsburg Lodge-Autograph Collection, Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel and Suites, the Griffin Hotel, and authentic 18th-century Colonial Houses. The resort offers a range of events and amenities including four historic taverns, 15 food and beverage outlets providing exquisite culinary experiences from casual to elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 36 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. and his son Rees Jones, a world-class full-service spa and fitness center, pools, meeting and flexible event spaces, and scenic gardens providing the perfect venue for weddings and special events. Merchants Square, built alongside the Historic Area in 1935 as one of the first planned shopping districts in the United States, features more than 40 specialty boutiques with products ranging from apparel to fine jewelry, art, specialty foods and gifts. Philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and hospitality operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg's educational programs and preservation initiatives.*

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