Monticello celebrates Garden Club of Virginia’s Historic Garden Week

GARDEN PARTY MARKS 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF RESTORATION OF WINDING WALK FLOWER BORDER AND OVAL BEDS AT MONTICELLO

IN LATE APRIL, COLORFUL TULIPS dominate the stage at Monticello. The perennial reds and yellows burst onto the springtime scene to an audience of garden enthusiasts and Monticello visitors. By mid-July, warm season annual flowers rule the garden. But what you see today—the beauty and splendor of the gardens at Monticello—had virtually disappeared after Jefferson’s death in 1826. The Garden Club of Virginia played an important role in restoring Jefferson’s gardens at Monticello. The flower gardens were revived and restored between 1939 and 1941.

To locate the winding walk flower border and the oval bed plan, Garden Club of Virginia members used Jefferson sketches and aimed the headlights of their automobiles across the West Lawn at night to observe the depression left behind. The location of the perennial bulbs, which had continued to flourish along the border after 115 years, also helped to outline its location.


Andrea Wulf, author of Founding Gardeners, introduced her new book at Monticello during Historic Garden Week in Virginia.

Monticello is a newsletter published twice yearly by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc., the private, nonprofit corporation that has owned and operated Monticello since 1923. Its mission is preservation and education. Questions, comments and address changes should be directed to: Monticello Newsletter, P.O. Box 217, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902; newsletter@monticello.org; or (434) 984-9822.