

Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
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colonialwilliamsburg.org

Colonial Williamsburg's 76th Annual Garden Symposium Explores History, Horticulture and Archaeology, April 27-30

English garden designer Lady Xa Tallemarche to deliver opening keynote



*Images courtesy of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (l) and Gary Summers SMD Photography (r).
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WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Feb. 22, 2023) – Registration is open for The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation’s [76th annual Garden Symposium](#), “Digging the Garden: Horticulture, History & Archaeology,” April 27-30. The event is offered both in-person and online and will feature presentations by horticulturists, historians, archaeologists and designers – including English garden designer Lady Xa Tollemache, gold and silver winner at London’s Chelsea Flower Show and creator of gardens at England’s stateliest houses including Castle Hill, Wilton and her own family’s double-moated Tudor Helmingham Hall.

“Only Colonial Williamsburg could curate a garden symposium as unique and multifaceted as this year’s event promises to be,” said Tom Savage, director of educational travel and conferences for Colonial Williamsburg. “Discovering what archaeology reveals about gardens presumed to have been lost to the past adds a whole new layer to our understanding of 18th-century garden design which in turn informs the way we think about designing gardens today. Add a dash of historical context and a whole lot of fun, and you’ve got a garden symposium that is not to be missed.”

Symposium highlights include:

- **Xa Tollenmarche** (English garden designer) on a designer’s harmony between house and garden
- **Mark Laird** (author and renowned garden historian and historic landscape consultant) on Virginia’s Royal Governor Lord Botetourt and his gardener, Thomas Wright.
- **Jack Gary** (Director of Archaeology, Colonial Williamsburg) on the Custis Square project and 18th-century gardener John Custis
- **Charlie Nardozi** (Nationally recognized garden writer, speaker, radio and television personality) on natural and easy ways to healthy soil
- **Daria McKelvey** (American Horticultural Society’s Emerging Horticultural Professional Award Winner and Supervisor, Kemper Center for Home Gardening at Missouri Botanical) on setting your garden up for success
- **Kerry Mendez** (author, speaker, garden and design consultant, and Gold Medal Award Winner—Massachusetts Horticultural Society) on inspired garden design

Registration

To register by the April 7 in-person or April 26 virtual-only deadline, visit <https://colonialwilliamsburg.org/garden-symposium>, email educationalconferences@cwf.org or call 1-800-603-0948 toll-free 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Registration for in-person attendance is \$325 and includes in-person and online access to all lectures; coffee and snack breaks; two evening receptions; and one seven-day ticket voucher to Colonial Williamsburg to be redeemed by Dec. 31, 2023.

Registration for online-only admission is \$125 and includes access to all lectures utilizing the conference streaming platform as well as one seven-day ticket voucher to Colonial Williamsburg to be redeemed by Dec. 31, 2023. Conference guest tickets are available for a seven-day ticket voucher to Colonial Williamsburg’s Art Museums and Historic Area (\$22) and Thursday and Saturday receptions (\$55 and \$65 respectively).

A limited number of [student scholarships](#) are available with an application deadline of March 17. [Special room rates](#) at Colonial Williamsburg hotels are available for conference registrants

who register by March 28. Reservations can be made by calling 800-261-9530 toll-free 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday.

Colonial Williamsburg’s 76th annual Garden Symposium is supported by Wells Fargo, BrightView Landscape Services and the American Horticultural Society.

For additional information, follow Colonial Williamsburg on [Facebook](#) and [@colonialwmsburg](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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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, lodging, culinary options from historic taverns to casual or elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 36 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones and his son Rees Jones, a full-service spa and fitness center, pools, retail stores and gardens. Philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and hospitality operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg’s educational programs and preservation initiatives.

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