

Report of Garden History and Design Chair, 2024

Paula Henderson

My primary duty was to find a speaker for the Garden History and Design lecture. I invited Laura Viancour, who has worked in the gardens at Colonial Williamsburg for 40 years and rose from 'gardener' to 'Director of Landscape', a post she held for many years. Her talk, "Colonial Williamsburg's Gardens: Perennial Change", was accompanied by excellent slides and she talked about how research and archaeological techniques have changed the design, interpretation and preservation of Colonial Williamsburg's historic gardens. She also discussed horticultural and conservation issues. Her talk was very well received by the membership.

I have also been involved with the proposal to add the garden at 69 Main Street (member Mariann Appley's garden) to the Smithsonian Archives of American Gardens. The research and photography had already been carried out by Barbara Halsted and Kathy Stroz. We are now in the final stages of preparing the submission and I believe that we will be able to send it to the Zone 1 Chair of Garden History and Design in September, 2024.