



## Wing Haven Travels to Charlottesville, VA May 9 – 12, 2011

The vibrant community of Charlottesville is nestled among the vineyards, farms, and orchards of Albemarle County. Rich in history, Charlottesville is home to two of Thomas Jefferson's masterpieces—Monticello and the University of Virginia. Agriculture still thrives in the region and, as a result, the area boasts a rich farm-to-table culinary culture complemented by a number of fine vineyards.

**MONDAY, MAY 9.** We'll depart Charlotte in the morning via our chartered bus and travel straight to Lynchburg. Upon arrival, we'll enjoy a box lunch at **The Old City Cemetery**. A visit to this cemetery (1806) is a step back in time to when grandmother's favorite rose or the acorn from the big oak was the only family grave marker. Three-fourths of the 20,000 burials are African or Native American—only one person in five has a marker—but the horticultural symbolism is plentiful and evident in many of their plantings and carvings. A major effort to restore the cemetery was completed in 2008, and today the 26-acre site boasts a collection of 275 roses.

After lunch we'll visit the home and garden of **Anne Spencer**. An internationally acclaimed poet, Spencer was the only black woman and the only Virginian included in the Norton Anthology of Modern American and British Poetry. Although she had no formal training in landscape design, she read widely and traveled far afield to collect unusual plants. The garden—filled with roses, perennials and annuals—is full of color in early May.

As we arrive in Charlottesville, we'll go to **Monticello** for a guided tour of the gardens and grounds. The gardens at Monticello were a showpiece, a source of food, and an experimental laboratory of ornamental and useful plants from around the world. The gardens and grounds have been restored to their appearance during Jefferson's retirement years, and many of the trees, vegetables and flowers that Jefferson cultivated grow there today. Our guide at Monticello, **Peter J. Hatch**, has been responsible for the maintenance, interpretation, and restoration of the 2,400-acre landscape since 1977.

Before dinner we'll check in to our hotel with a little time to freshen up. Tonight we'll dine at **Farmington Country Club** where we'll enjoy our meal in the octagonal east wing of the clubhouse in a room designed by Thomas Jefferson.

**TUESDAY, MAY 10.** Our morning will begin with a walking tour of the historic gardens of the **University of Virginia** campus. Thomas Jefferson developed the original site plan for the campus and Mary Hughes, the University Landscape Architect, will serve as our guide. The restored garden designs reflect Jefferson's gardens at Monticello as well as landscape plans in his collections of books.

Our day continues with lunch at historic **Clifton Inn**, now a Relais & Chateaux property set on 100 acres of scenic countryside.

In the afternoon we'll begin our tour of western Albemarle County with **Brooke Spencer**. A principal with Cory Spencer Partners, Brooke has directed garden designs and managed installations for numerous historic properties and gardens around Virginia. Our stops include Brooke's home, **Rabbit Run**. In 2004 it was an abandoned four acres overrun by poison ivy and invasives. The architect/husband easily transformed the house, but the gardener/wife had the greater challenge. With a rented bulldozer and well-worn machete and hoe, she cleared the densely overgrown property. She then enlisted the help of George Carter from Norfolk, England to create a master plan. The garden now reflects Brooke's passionate interest in historic Virginia gardens and native species.

Built in 1900 **Ramsay** is a two-story, frame, Classical Revival-style dwelling that faces the Blue Ridge Mountains. The 78-acre property includes a number of significant out buildings and a boxwood garden. Charlottesville architect Milton L. Grigg remodeled the main house in 1937, 1947 and again in the early 1950s. Ramsay was the home of the Langhorne and Gibson families—most notably the "Gibson Girl," Irene Langhorne Gibson.

Although the title to **Blue Ridge Farm** dates to the mid-eighteenth century, the present house was built in the mid-nineteenth century by the Smith family. In 1923 the renowned architect William Lawrence Bottomley was commissioned to enlarge and redesign the house. The landscaping was designed by Charles F. Gillette in close cooperation with the architect and complemented the expansive scale of the

residence. One architectural critic has written that the "combination of the talents of both Bottomley and Gillette resulted in one of Virginia's finest Neo-Georgian estates..."

Our final stop of the day will be **Wilton Farm**. These extensive (15 acres!) gardens are a testament to the homeowner's interest in both familiar and unusual plant material. The diverse shrub borders include a Japanese maple garden, a yellow border with an emphasis on yellow conifers, a silver garden and other color-themed borders. The homeowner has graciously invited us to enjoy a glass of wine as we tour her property.

The evening is free.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 11.** We'll begin the morning in Orange at **Mount Sharon Farm**, located on one of the highest and most spectacular sites in the Piedmont. With the help of Charlottesville landscape architect Charles Stick, the homeowners set out to create a garden to complement their Georgian Revival brick house. What resulted is an extraordinary series of garden rooms, featuring a broad palette of plants framed by hundred-year-old boxwoods.

We'll continue the morning at **James Madison's Montpelier**. The estate began as a working plantation and was the lifelong home of James Madison. The Annie duPont Formal Garden features walkways, sweeping beds, an herb garden, and magnificent marble lions and urns. Established in Madison's time, the Garden was renovated by Annie duPont in the early 1900s. While at Montpelier, we'll enjoy a box lunch.

At **Barboursville Vineyards**, which has become a showpiece of the wine producing region that Jefferson envisioned, we'll enjoy a private tasting and tour of the winery; we'll also be free to explore the ruins of the Barbour estate—one of only 3 residences designed by Thomas Jefferson for his friends.

Dinner this evening will be at the **C&O**, a Charlottesville institution.

**THURSDAY, MAY 12.** As we begin to make our way home to Charlotte, we'll visit **Polyface**. The "farm of many faces" is a family owned, multi-generational, pasture-based, beyond organic, local-market farm. Polyface, America's premier non-industrial farm, provides plants and animals the habitat that allows them to express their physiological distinctiveness. Their motto: Respecting and honoring the *pigness* of the pig is a foundation for societal health!

After enjoying lunch in historic downtown **Staunton**, our last stop of the trip will be **Viette's Nursery**. The garden center is surrounded by six acres of display gardens of all kinds. We'll enjoy wandering through the gardens and have time to browse their selection of perennials and annuals that includes some of the best daylily and hosta varieties grown.

Wing Haven Travels to Charlottesville, VA  
Trip Registration



- Cost per person—\$1,110—Double Occupancy
- Single room preferred (Single Rate: \$1,345)

To secure your spot on this wonderful trip to Charlottesville, please complete the following and mail it with your deposit (\$350) to **Wing Haven, 248 Ridgewood Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28209**. Space is limited! Payment in full is due by April 1. Information on **trip insurance** will be sent upon receipt of your deposit.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Sharing room with \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to pay by  Check  Visa/MasterCard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Included Features:** Roundtrip transportation by private bus; 3 nights hotel accommodations at the Omni Charlottesville—located within walking distance to downtown restaurants and shops. Three breakfasts, four lunches, two dinners, and snacks on the bus; all tours and admission fees as described in the itinerary; donation to Wing Haven. Wing Haven acts only as the agent of the various companies over the lines of which this trip is operated. Tour organizers assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the services of any conveyance that may be used in the performance of its duty to the passenger. No refunds will be made for any part of the tour in which you choose not to participate.