

The Boxwood Garden Club

**A History
Celebrating Our 75th Anniversary
1937 – 2012**



GARDEN CLUB
OF VIRGINIA

The wonderful ladies who have chosen to be a part of the Boxwood Garden Club have accomplished much in the past 75 years. We have worked to restore historic gardens and landscapes, conserved our Commonwealth's natural resources and inspired a love of gardening in ourselves, as well as those around us. Whether it was meeting with Richmond city officials, mailing guidebooks for Historic Garden Week or entering our own flowers in a flower show, we have set a high standard for getting the job done with grace and determination. Many have benefited from our efforts. The Kent Valentine House was purchased to become the headquarters for the Garden Club of Virginia under the leadership of a Boxwood member and later another one of our own Boxwood ladies lead the charge to restore the house. The beautiful trees you see as you drive down Historic Monument Avenue were planted in an effort lead by another Boxwood team member. Most recently, we have partnered with our fellow Richmond Clubs members in the Capital Trees project at 14th and Bank Street. We have opened our homes and gardens for Historic Garden Week, as well as decorated them with our "over the top" flower arrangements. As we worked side by side we have not only cultivated the soil, but we have formed deep roots with the friendships we have shared. The strength of any organization lies within its members, and we have been so blessed. Our responsibility now is to continue the mission set forth from the past into future generations. I hope you will enjoy reading this history and remembering those who have gone before us. It will inspire you to continue to carry the Boxwood banner high. I

look forward to the next 75 years.

Cathy Lee
Boxwood Garden Club President
May 2012



In January of 1937, fourteen women gathered at the home of Mrs. Guthrie Smith in Windsor Farms, to form a garden club. The founding members were: Mrs. T. M. Anderson, Mrs. Robert I. Boswell, Mrs. Herbert Brown, Mrs. Douglas Cook, Mrs. Arthur Fulghum, Mrs. Robert Henley, Mrs. John Hardy, Mrs. B. C. Holtzclaw, Mrs. Luther Jeffress, Mrs. Charles W. Moss Mrs. W.W. Michaux, Jr., Mrs. Ellis Penn, Mrs. Thomas Scales and Mrs. Guthrie Smith. The club was organized following the rules of The Garden Club of Virginia. They chose the name *The Westerly Club*, directed the writing of our Constitution and By-Laws and invited 16 additional women to become members. Mrs. Charles W. Moss was elected as our first President. Since Boxwood's founding, a yearbook has been published every year listing annual programs, rules for competitive exhibits, instruction in flower arranging and horticulture and a member roster. The purpose of the club continues to be exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, including the education of its members and the general public. Since its beginning, Boxwood's mission has been to promote gardening among amateurs, to protect our native trees, wildflowers and birds, to conserve our natural resources, to restore and preserve historic gardens, and to encourage civic planting. In 1939, our name changed to *The Boxwood Garden Club*.

From our first membership meeting to the present, education has been the primary focus. A member of The James River Garden Club was the speaker for our first meeting as well as the judge for our artistic exhibits. Following her speech, "she looked over the array of exhibits and said, 'Well, there's really nothing here to judge'. Immediately our members began to learn how to make proper arrangements". Competitive artistic and horticulture exhibits continue to be entered at most of our membership meetings. Formerly, the majority of meetings were held in members' homes. However, once a year from 1940 through 1977, an outreach meeting was held at one of the three Protestant Homes for Elderly Women. These meetings usually included a speaker, slides or movies depicting our many glorious Virginia gardens. Artistic exhibits of fruit, candy and flowers were brought to these meetings, and the residents were invited to vote with the members in choosing the

winners. The arrangements were always left for the residents to enjoy. The tradition of providing arrangements to area resident homes continues each year.

Throughout the years Boxwood members have participated in many flower shows with great enthusiasm and success. The first flower show we participated in was jointly held with The Three Chopt Garden Club at St. Stephen's Church Parish House. Boxwood scored 51 points in the arrangement classes and 87 points in the horticultural classes. We also won the award for the most outstanding arrangement. We won the sweepstakes for the most outstanding arrangement in the Tuckahoe Women's Club - Flower Show in 1947, 1948 and 1949. In 1950, Mrs. Booker Wales won the award for the Invitation Class for Garden Clubs. Mrs. Evan Massey won the same award in 1951. At the 1955 show, Mrs. Horace Smith, Jr. won the tri-color for her table arrangement, blue ribbons for two other entries, and a blue ribbon for interpreting the apple industry in Virginia. She took home the silver trophy as well. Also, at that show, Mrs. Benjamin Harrison's table won the blue ribbon, Mrs. Horace Smith, Jr. won the tri-color, and Mrs. Evan Massey was awarded the silver cup for her interpretation of the Virginia Coal Industry. *The New York Herald Tribune* held a flower show in Richmond for area garden clubs. Boxwood won the award for the most outstanding arrangement in the show. In 1954, Boxwood, in cooperation with The American Camellia Society, held the first ever Camellia Flower Show held in Virginia. The show was held in March at Miller & Rhoads. Both private and commercial exhibitors from Virginia and North Carolina presented 700 specimens and 67 arrangements. Boxwood member Mrs. Booker Wales won the tri-color for her arrangement. Blue and red ribbons, best in show, and tri-color awards were awarded to Boxwood members at almost every flower show we entered during those early years, a tradition that continues to the present. Currently, we are in the process of compiling a complete listing of all awards won by our membership.

Throughout the early years, our members purchased and accumulated a sizeable collection of books on flower arranging and horticulture which became a lending library for the membership.

This book collection was eventually presented to the Richmond Public Library.... long before the Kent-Valentine House became the headquarters of The Garden Club of Virginia collected books for its own lending library.

From our inception, Boxwood has participated in *Historic Garden Week in Virginia*. A 1955 *History of Boxwood* states “we feel that our record in this work has been very high”. In 1951 we procured and assigned 132 hostesses for 24 homes and gardens. We helped with the information booth located at The Jefferson Hotel and in 1953 had the entire responsibility of packaging and mailing 40,000 *Garden Week in Virginia* booklets. To our great honor, Boxwood members have served as Chairman of Historic Garden Week, on the state level, seven times: 1954-55 Mrs. Hallowell Dickinson, 1959-60 Mrs. George H. Flowers, Jr., 1965-66 Mrs. Edmund W. Hening, Jr., 1974-75 Mrs. John S. Battle, Jr., 1982-83 Mrs. Charles L. Reed, Jr., 1998-99 Mrs. Bowlman T. Bowles, Jr. and 2005-07 Mrs. John A. Nolde, Jr. Each served with grace and distinction. Many of our members have graciously opened their homes for Garden Week through the years. The 1955 Boxwood history reported that our Mrs. John Russell, owner of Keswick, opened her home “annually”. A listing of Boxwood members who have opened their homes and gardens for Historic Garden Week will be included in our new website to be introduced to the membership in the fall of 2012. Complete documentation of Boxwood’s many roles in and continuing commitment to Historic Garden Week is difficult to record in its entirety because of our extensive involvement on many levels.

After fourteen years of volunteer service to Historic Garden Week in Virginia, Boxwood’s dreams were fulfilled. At the May 14, 1951 Annual Meeting of The Garden Club of Virginia, held at the Nansemond Hotel in Norfolk, Virginia, “The organization voted to accept two new member clubs, The Three Chopt Club and The Boxwood Club, both of Richmond.” The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton was our sponsor Club and we accepted membership in GCV in 1952. With membership came the responsibility to have annual community service projects which are listed below.

Community Service Projects of The Boxwood Garden Club Activities and Highlights of note

1940

“The Boxwood Garden Club was requested by The Garden Club of Virginia (prior to Boxwood’s membership in that organization) to plant a lily test garden, a rose test garden and later a daffodil test garden. Boxwood continues to maintain these test gardens, with-in our member’s personal gardens to this day. These test gardens are an important, ongoing, educational tool in gardening”.

World War II Years

Members concentrated on volunteer efforts of importance to the war effort including those at volunteering at the USO, the Red Cross, Blood Bank, and various fund-raising projects. We purchased an electric clock for the local USO building and contributed to the landscaping at McGuire’s Veterans Hospital. “For many years, as our November artistic exhibit, we held a competitive class for the most attractively packaged Christmas present. All of the presents were given to the patients at the Veterans Hospital.”

1947

In 1935, an important 145-year-old structure at 1812 E Grace Street (the second oldest house in Richmond), known as the Adam Craig House, was threatened by demolition. As the childhood home of Jane Craig Stanard, the subject of Edgar Allan Poe’s “To Helen,” the Adam Craig House was one of the few remaining 18th century structures in Richmond. The APVA purchased and restored the house, and in **1947**, Boxwood began taking full responsibility for the gardens at Craig House. We designed the plan for the garden, procured and planted the materials, and maintained the gardens which were open every year for Historic Garden Week. Digging, watering, weeding, and pruning were done regularly by various dedicated members who recreated the old-fashioned garden. “*The*

charm of the garden lies in its quaintness. Cowslips, pinks, daffodils and hyacinths that bloom along the old brick walks in the Spring as they did almost two centuries ago”, wrote Mrs. Charles Bowles in the February 1943 issue of *Garden Gossip*. An item in the *Old Richmond News* of May, 1953 reads, “*If you have not seen the Craig House recently, go down and admire the new paint and the lovely garden cared for by the indefatigable Boxwood Garden Club.*” Boxwood maintained the Craig House Gardens for 9 years, and in 1953, we were awarded the **Garden Club of Virginia’s Massie Medal** for its restoration and maintenance.

1950

Richmond Mayor, Sterling King, asked one of our members to serve on the Beautification Committee of the City of Richmond. We also sent a club representative to The Public Forum on World Affairs sponsored by Miller & Rhoads.

1951

The Tuckahoe Garden Club of Westhampton sponsored Boxwood Garden Club for membership in The Garden Club of Virginia.

1952

Boxwood accepted the offer and officially became a member of The Garden Club of Virginia.

1953

In October, GCV sponsored a Rose Show at the Virginia Museum of Fine Art. Members of Boxwood helped to stage the arrangements. Three of our members took home ribbons for their entries.

- Sent a child to Nature Camp at Mt. Vesuvius, VA. for the first time.

1954

Boxwood, in cooperation with The American Camellia Society, held the first ever Camellia Flower Show to be held in

Virginia on March 25th and 26th in the Old Dominion Room at Miller & Rhoads. Admission was 75 cents which included a federal tax of .12 and a city tax of .03, all typed on the ticket! Amateur growers from all over the state displayed their specimens competing for the “sweepstakes award of the American Camellia Society Gold Certificates, to be given to the exhibitor scoring the most points in four specimen classes for amateurs.” There were more than 75 entries in nine arrangement classes. Photographs of the winners of three classes were entered in the American Camellia Society 1954 Contest. The Camellia Flower Show created quite a buzz about town and the state with numerous newspaper and magazine articles dedicated to the culture, care and maintenance of camellias being published.

We began our first ever “Provisional Active Class” – 8 new members

- Sent a child to Nature Camp at Mr. Vesuvius, VA.

1956

We held our first joint meeting of the 4 Richmond area GCV Clubs- Boxwood, James River, Tuckahoe and Three Chopt Garden Clubs. This meeting is now held biennially. In 1956 Boxwood added an Associate Membership Class to the Active and Non-Resident class.

1957

During this year, our club “felt a great sense of pride when our own Mrs. O.O. Ashworth was awarded the Pulitzer Prize jointly with Dr. Douglas Southall Freeman, posthumously, for completing his biography of George Washington.

1959

We restored our first garden at 230 East Grace Street in the Church Hill area of Historic Richmond. For the next four years, our projects concentrated on additional garden restorations in the area.

1960

This year, Boxwood members were collectively schooled in Seika, Nagiere and Moribana style Japanese arrangements. The four

Richmond member clubs of GCV held a *Spring Flower Show* at St. Stephen's Church, Parish House. Our own Mrs. Benjamin Harrison and Mrs. Horace Smith, Jr. were the co-chairmen. Mrs. Harrison won the award for the best luncheon table with Boxwood winning the sweepstakes in the show.

1961-1962

Mrs. Benjamin Harrison, Chairman of our year book, introduced a cover design of a par terre landscape with boxwoods. This design was later used for Boxwood's quilt square which is part of a larger quilt hanging at Kent-Valentine House depicting the logos of each member club.

Mrs. Horace Smith, Jr. won the award for the most outstanding table at a show held by The Windsor Farms Garden Club. Boxwood was elected into membership of The American Horticultural Society by its Board of Directors and presented with a signed Certificate of Membership.

1963

Boxwood hosted the GCV Annual Meeting. Luncheon was held at the Rotunda Club with each guest receiving a gift of a small potted boxwood. The table centerpieces were of "little Santorin figures surrounded by small potted English boxwood. Of particular interest was the stunning arrangement in the center of the room. The epergne container was so tall that Mrs. James A. Jones had to stand on a step-ladder to make the arrangement, while Mrs. Horace Smith's man, William, handed her the flowers one step at a time." Our 1977 Boxwood history records, "there is not space to enumerate and describe the beautiful entertainments for that meeting. Every member had an assignment and participated. After it was all over, Mrs. James Bland Martin, GCV President, wrote a unique note of thanks to our club. She pasted the roster of members at the top of the page, then typed one line sentences of thanks to the members: such as "Dear Mary" and a line, "Dear Anne" and a line, and so on."

Boxwood member, Mrs. A. Kenton Muhleman, conceived the idea for a civic beautification project at the corner of 23rd and Broad

Streets, adjoining the Mews of Historic Richmond. This project became the major focus of our club for the next three years. Beginning with the purchase of the lot, Boxwood raised the \$4,000 needed through Christmas House Tours and auction sales. With ownership of the lot, we were able to implement the planned landscape improvements (designed by esteemed Mrs. Ralph E. Griswold) which included a well planned, attractively planted parking area, surrounded by brick walls, lovely trees and shrubs. Contributions from former Church Hill families, provided as memorials to loved ones and friends, funded the purchase of the landscape materials. In September, 1966, the beautifully completed new parking lot and landscaped grounds were turned over to the Historic Richmond Foundation by Mrs. Muhleman on behalf of The Boxwood Garden Club. The lot helped to ease parking for visitors to St. John's Church and complemented the adjoining St. John's Mews. The APVA was proud to accept our gift. In September, 1966, the beautifully completed new parking lot and landscaped grounds were turned over to the Historic Richmond Foundation by Mrs. Muhleman on behalf of The Boxwood Garden Club. "In presenting the award for GCV, Mrs. J. Clifford Miller, Jr. praised Boxwood for its 'foresight, conservation of property, fostering public relations, patience and hard work in transforming an eyesore into a corner of beauty and real usefulness'." This was our second Massie Medal Award, *and* the first time a GCV garden club had won the medal two times!

To carry out our projects with more ease, the size of the Active membership was increased to 50 members while the Associate membership was increased to 10 members.

1964

Boxwood held a fund raising house tour on December 6th displaying Christmas decorations. Nine of our members graciously opened their homes for the tour: Mrs. John H. Cecil, Mrs. George H. Flowers, Jr., Mrs. E. T. Gatewood, Mrs. Edward C. Longmore, Mrs. George W. Macon, Jr. Mrs. Harris "A good n' " Ruffin Tyler, Mrs. A.K. Muhleman, Mrs. Horace L. Smith, Jr. and Mrs. George L. Turner. "A

good sum was realized from the tour and used for the 23rd Street Parking lot” project.

“Mrs. Arthur Brinkley received one of the fifteen awards given for excellence in horticulture by The Garden Club of Virginia.”

1964-1966

We continued working on the beautification of the 23rd and Broad Street site.

1966

“A new membership class was created - Honorary Membership which is to be limited to five members.”

1967

Boxwood won its second Massie Medal Award presented by the Garden Club of Virginia for our 23rd Street project.

We began a new project with Mrs. George H. Flowers, Jr. and Mrs. William A. Johns as co-chairmen. This project was different from our previous projects as it was designed to acquaint the citizens of Richmond with plans for developing the James River as a public park. Education AND conservation were the focus of this project. Mrs. George H. Flowers, Jr. filed the following report in 1977.

“About ten years ago when Boxwood wanted a new project, but not an expensive one, Logan Johns and I got the job of searching for one. We had been to the Richmond City Manager to see if something to help the city could be suggested. He had a few ideas, but not with our prerequisites and even admitted that some of his employees thought asphalt was beautiful.

While discouraged, we came upon an article by James Walmsley, Editor of the Commonwealth Magazine, on the proposed James River Park in the city of at Richmond. What a wild idea! How impossible!

Anyhow, we went to see Jim Park, then Assistant Richmond City Planner. He had some exciting sketches of possible ways to develop the park which would encompass the area

stretching from the first old lock at the foot of 17th Street to the Huguenot Bridge, including parts of the banks on both sides of the river, and even Belle Isle. Many toes would be stepped on if this plan were carried out.

But, Logan and I were entranced. With Jim Park and others as guides we explored the old locks, located antique riverside buildings and ruins, climbed up and down the banks on both sides of the river. We conferred with some of the land owners, especially in the business section. We caught the dream of making such a park and making it work for Richmond. But it would only be a dream unless someone could put this idea across to the citizens to make them see the James River as something more than to be crossed by bridges.

Could the Boxwood Garden Club help in this? Why not get a promotional slide program together and show it around the city? We presented the idea to the club and you adopted it enthusiastically. We promised it wouldn't cost much (and it didn't.) We began to gather hundreds of slides, and soon, bogged down with slides and ideas, we could see that we didn't know how to put a program together which anyone would want to see. So we went to Fred Frechette, a professional, who had made appealing programs for the UGF, and others.

Fred came up with a 20 minute program of slides with a script taped by "the voice" of Richmond. It was perfect and Fred had become so interested in the park that he insisted on donating his services.

Many members of the club were recruited to show the program. The Richmond Jaycees got interested, bought a projector, and took the night showings for us. Over 55 organizations, 4,000 people, saw the show as we went out into the highways and by-ways in twos spreading the word and winning support for the park everywhere. This program was the feature of the Garden Club of Virginia's Conservation Forum in March 31, 1968.

When the plan was adopted by the city and assigned to The Department of Recreation and Parks, we considered our work

done, but we found we had to keep up a steady vigil against huge power lines, a super highway down the middle of the river, etc. (I like a good fight, and was thoroughly disappointed when Veeco backed down at a hearing before we could say our piece.)

Others bless them, joined in the fight and we retired, donating our program to the State Commission on Outdoor Recreation and Parks. At the 1970 GCV Annual meeting, held at The Science Museum of Virginia, the DeLacy Gray Conservation Medal was awarded to the Boxwood Garden Club in the names of the two who benefited most from learning about this wonderful natural area and working for the park, Logan and me.

The James River Program was presented as the main feature at The Garden Club of Virginia's Conservation Forum in 1968. Our club was also "instrumental in dissuading the Virginia Electric and Power Company from running overhead power lines along the James River banks and thus destroying much of its scenic beauty."

1968

"On Arbor Day we planted thirty five dogwood trees."

"In November, we joined with the 3 other Richmond area GCV garden clubs in a joint meeting. We resolved to repeat such meetings and to promote closer ties between the clubs." As of our 75th Anniversary in 2012, our association with the three other GCV Richmond Clubs continues to be important. Together through the ensuing years we have accomplished many great projects for the beautification and education of our shared city. We continue to hold joint meetings biennially. Our most recent joint meeting subject was our Capital Trees project to restore the urban canopy in Richmond.

"Our Constitution was streamlined and the time for election of officers was changed from the Annual Meeting in May to the regular meeting in March." Our roster in 1968 included 47 Actives, 3 Associates, 2 Non-residents and 2 Honorary members.

1970

Boxwood won The DeLacy Gray Conservation Medal presented by The Garden Club of Virginia for the James River Park education program.

1971

On October 13th and 14th, Boxwood sponsored the 35th Annual Garden Club of Virginia Rose Show. This was the first time the Rose Show had been held in Richmond since 1952. Mrs. Ivor Massey and Mrs. Charles Gregory, Jr. were Co-chairmen of the event and our own Mrs. George H. Flowers, Jr. was then current President of The Garden Club of Virginia. "It was staged at The Carillon, in Byrd Park, and themed "Six Centuries of Roses". "Six classes in the show's artistic division cast the rose in the role of interpreter of man's cultural history and destiny, from the Renaissance to the 21st century including interpretations of 'European Baroque', 'Classic Revival', 'The Georgian Period', '21st Century' and many more." Boxwood hostesses wore pretty pink denim aprons, with the roses hand painted on them by Mrs. Walther G.Maser. There were 113 classes, a Court of Honor and 2 collections. The show was a big success.

With our own Mrs. George H. Flowers, Jr. as President, The Garden Club of Virginia purchased the Kent-Valentine House for use as its headquarters. "Boxwood members have faithfully and artistically assisted there in decorating, catering and administration" from the beginning when this historic house was transformed into the headquarters of The Garden Club of Virginia. Once the house was officially opened, and a new chapter began for GCV, members everywhere were aware that the imagination, keen perception and hard work of Mary Frances Flowers, matched by characteristic industry and devotion to an ideal, more than any other factor, had turned this hope into reality."

1974

This year our club chose to provide urns filled with appropriate plant material for the east side of the Richmond Public

Library as a project. We received a resolution and gracious thank you letter from the Richmond Library Board for our efforts which had an expenditure of \$1,987.57.

“For her work in saving the Kent-Valentine House, for securing its tax-exempt status, for her leadership in the community, and for her work in various capacities for The Garden Club of Virginia, Mary Frances Flowers was awarded the Garden Club of Virginia Massie Medal with this inscription: “To Mary Frances Flowers who, crowning a life time of service, became the guiding spirit of the Kent -Valentine House.”

Boxwood procured the homes to be open for Historic Garden Week.

1975-1977

Our club project during these years was “the planting of a naturalized hillside garden of approximately ¼ acre at Maymont Park. This area featured both sun and shade wild flowers. The garden is not only beautiful but educational as well as the flowers have been labeled and listed for visitors and wild flower tours are given four times a year by Maymont. Maymont Park is owned by the City of Richmond and the Maymont Foundation acts as agent for the City for improvement and upkeep. This was successfully carried out with Mrs. John H. Cecil as Chairman.” Boxwood’s expenditure was \$2,264.30.

1977-1981

A project begun in 1977 was shared with the James River, Tuckahoe and Three Chopt Garden Clubs. Together, the 4 clubs were “able to accomplish an essential project of civic beautification which none could attempt alone.” We funded the landscaping of the east terrace of The Science Museum of Virginia, formerly the Broad Street Train Station. Boxwood’s expenditure was \$3,639.70. The east terrace was a part of the master landscaping plan which was completed in 1981. At our club meeting, held at the Museum in January, members viewed the results under a blanket of snow.

Our first fund raiser for the Science Museum project was a *Basket Bazaar*. The bazaar was held in November, in time for Christmas shopping, and was a smashing success. Each Boxwood member was asked to plan and purchase unusual baskets and its contents following a theme and to suggest a sales price. The baskets were staged on long tables and available for viewing before the sale. "Basket lunches" were also available for sale. After lunch, "the Chairman announced that shopping could begin. The crowd surged forward toward the tables which were filled with a remarkable display of attractive, unusual baskets holding an amazing assortment of contents." There were baskets filled with edibles; Christmas cactus in bloom and other potted plants; dried flowers, pinecones, greens and berries for Christmas decorating; beauty products; cleaning supplies; sewing supplies; stationary and office supplies while others were painted for use as pocket books and carry-alls. The assortment was dazzling. "In an amazingly short amount of time the baskets were all sold, and the members were pleased that the Boxwood Bazaar had been a bonanza."

1976

Our own Mrs. Charles Bruce Miller was made Chairman of Conservation for The Garden Club of Virginia, and was instrumental in starting the GCV Common Wealth Fund. Not only did she plan the Conservation Forums, but she also took groups to the Legislature at the Capitol on behalf of conservation and beautification issues. Her leadership laid the groundwork for the current Conservation Committee's activities.

1978

Boxwood procured the homes to be open for Historic Garden Week.

1979

Boxwood hosted the 59th Garden Club of Virginia Annual Meeting which was held at the John Marshall Hotel. Mrs. Merritt W. Foster, Jr. was President of Boxwood at the time. Cocktails and a

buffet supper were held at the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Ivor Massey and Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Reed, Jr.

1980

In October, the four Richmond GCV member clubs jointed sponsored British flower arranging authority Shelia MacQueen at an all-day flower arranging program held at The Science Museum of Virginia. The funds raised from this event were used to fund our commitment to the Landscaping Project at The Science Museum of Virginia, our group project from 1977-1981.

1982

“We began The Franklin Street Project which gave us another opportunity to work with several groups on a joint project too large for one to do. The Boxwood joined forces with Historic Richmond Foundation, The Junior League of Richmond, and the private sector, Corner Associates, the latter being owner of the property at the southwest corner of Franklin and Jefferson streets, to create an urban park at that location. It was intended that this project would serve as a pilot for others throughout the area. Boxwood’s expenditure was \$ 2,930.04.

- Donated money to Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, a joint project with the three other Richmond GCV clubs.

1984

“The club has for a number of years contributed to The Conservation Council of Virginia Foundation which is dedicated to the conservation of Virginia’s resources and also to the Virginia Resource – Use Education Council. Our contribution to the latter is in support of a course in conservation given for public school teachers in Virginia”.

“Since 1979 our annual dues structure has been: \$30-Active and Associate, \$15-Non Resident, \$30 initiation fee for new members. At the May meeting this year, the membership voted to change the dues structure to: \$40-Active, Associate, \$25-Non Resident, \$40 initiation fee for new members. In 1984 we had 50

Active members, 15 Associate members and 4 Non-resident members.

1985

"Tablescapes and Fun Settings" was presented by Boxwood at The Tuckahoe Women's Club on May 10th. The idea for Tablescapes came from member Mrs. J. Kimpton Honey who "saw the idea in Florida and brought it back". After two years of planning, searching member homes for china and props, Boxwood created 23 settings ranging from tailgate picnics and beach parties to formal dinners. The Tuckahoe Women's Club auditorium was arranged with booths around the walls and a gazebo in the center around which Watkins Nurseries designed and built a garden. They also installed a boxwood garden at the entrance to the event in honor of Boxwood Garden Club. Dining tables and LOTS of additional furniture were moved into the Tuckahoe Women's Club to suggest individual room settings in the spaces around the walls. This was no small task! One space even had a painted backdrop completing a dining room scene. Other settings included contemporary Japanese setting complete with cushions on the floor, a pre-race tailgate setting, a birthday celebration for a 10 year old girl, and a setting for a golden wedding anniversary based on china thickly banded in gold among the many other wonderful settings. The member Chairmen for the event were: Mrs. Drew St. J. Carneal, Mrs. Richard H. Catlett, Jr., Mrs. Benjamin Harrison and Mrs. J. Kimpton Honey. Money raised at this event was earmarked for planting the grounds at The Virginia Home.

We designed and purchased the plant material and re-planted the enormously large cement planters outside the Richmond Coliseum.

1986-1987

Tablescapes II - "The Art of Creative Entertaining" was presented by Boxwood as a follow-up to the success of Tablescapes "I" in 1985 and was brought back "by popular demand". This year it was a three day event with multiple activities available. The venue this time was *The Carillon* which was decorated with a variety of

more than 35 large and small room-size vignettes and table settings, created by the talented members of Boxwood and 7 local interior designers. “The vignettes illustrated entertaining for various seasons of the year, various meals, indoor and outdoor service, special occasions, holidays and entertaining with a foreign flavor.” Of special note on display were “place settings from the official china of the Virginia Executive Mansion and various presidential chinas from the White House.” The show began with a ribbon cutting by Jeannie Baliles, honorary chairwoman and wife of the then current Virginia Governor, Gerald L. Baliles, followed by three concerts on the Carillon by Lawrence Robinson, City Carillonneur. The concerts were dedicated to the residents of The Virginia Home. Also on display were topiaries, hand painted table linens and picnic baskets. Montaldo’s presented models wearing a variety of hostess fashions for the event. Lunch was provided by Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Bloemendaal offered guided tours of its daffodil gardens as well as a flower arranging class. Also in concert with the event, three house-museums offered “Entertaining Through the Years” presentations. The 3 house bus tour was available through Richmond Roundabout and included Agecroft Hall(16th century entertaining), Wilton House Museum (18th century entertaining), and Maymont (turn of the century (19th) entertaining). Tablescapes II was an even bigger success than Tablescapes I. Advertising for the event was extensive – making *Southern Living Magazine*, *Town and Country Magazine*, and multiple magazines and other publications in the local Richmond area; 136 newspapers as well as brochure mailings to area and regional tour companies. An article by Doris Nixon, Registered Bridal Consultant for The National Bridal Service, summed up the event. “Tablescapes II is history now. But the glow of gracious dining, exciting settings and creative ideas magically colored the thinking of the thousands who viewed it. Visitors from across America, as well as the city itself, were made aware that dining can be romantic, theatrical, imaginative or just plain “fun”. One out of town table top participant said he “came to bring glitter to Richmond, I leave with Richmond having brought glitter to me”. Monies raised from Tablescapes II

was donated for the landscaping project at The Virginia Home and for the 1989 GCV Rose Show when Boxwood is host club.

“For many years The Windsor Farms Garden Club and the Junior Board of the Virginia Home have lovingly maintained the gardens at the Virginia Home. Boxwood partnered with them in raising money for a major new landscaping project at the front of the Home. Monies raised by Boxwood at Tablesapes I and II were used to fund the project. “The plant scape was designed by landscape architect Kenneth Higgins who designed the plantings, choosing low growing hollies, azaleas and ground covers that will enable persons in wheelchairs to look over them to vistas of Byrd Park” stated an article in the *Richmond Times Dispatch* on Sunday, November, 22, 1987. The new landscaping was dedicate on November 24th, 1988 when Boxwood President Mary Glen Taylor thanked the many involved in the project by donating their time in “bringing order to the chaos of construction and beauty from the debris of building.”

1989

On October 4th and 5th, Boxwood held its second GCV sponsored Rose Show. *The Orient Express – An Adventure by Rail*, was held at The Science Museum of Virginia, the former Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad Station. “Groups of luggage were placed amidst palms and ferns with colorful travel posters placed on the walls enhancing the décor. Each artistic category sed poses o interpret the route of the Orient Express across Europe. London was represented with a Hogarth Curve design, Paris with an interpretation of Josephine’s Mal Maison, Venice, the Grand Canal with many other locations included. The show took place in the lower concourse of the old RF&P with trains and tracks in view adding to the excitement of a trip across Europe. The Show Chairman was Mrs. Hubert S. Taylor, Jr. In a write-up in the GCV Journal, Annabel Josephs and Peggy Talman wrote, “after an exciting tour on the Orient Express it was clear that the beloved rose is versatile enough to represent the ice of the Rhone Glacier as well as the warmth of an oriental rug”. There were 163 Exhibitors – 387 horticulture stems and 62 artistic arrangements.

1988-1992

Boxwood, along with the other 3 GCV Richmond area clubs, pledged \$1,000 each for four years (a total of \$16,000) to a permanent project in the proposed landscaping plan at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens.

1992

After much discussion within the membership and the Board, we voted to change our meeting times to accommodate younger members with early afternoon carpools. Meetings in the fall will be held in the mornings and spring meetings will be held in the afternoon. Also greatly discussed at this time was the idea of increasing our membership. Sally Flinn, then Membership Chairman, proposed a formalized by-laws change to increase the active membership from 55 to 65. The motion passed. Membership totals this year before the vote were – 51 Actives, 14 Associates and 7 non-residents. Mary Glen Taylor was awarded the Garden Club of Virginia Horticulture Award.

- We sponsored 2 children for The *Summer Discovery's Young Naturalist Program* at Maymont and 3 children for the Bloemendaal summer camp program.

1993

On March 25th, Boxwood and Schwarzschild Jewelers presented *Bettie Bearden Pardee*, renowned author and hostess at two events. The first was “Savvy Southern Entertaining” where attendees discovered elegant and whimsical surprises for staging memorable celebrations at home. The second was “On-The-Go Party Planning” where Ms. Pardee demonstrated clever and practical entertaining strategies for busy people that combined “take out” with easy elements in the home. Schwarzschild’s covered 50% of the expenses and each Boxwood member was asked to sell tickets at \$30 each. This was a highly successful fundraiser which netted the club \$12,782.92. Co-chairmen, Ann Miller and Ann Denny, and their committee are to be congratulated.

The idea of a Boxwood Endowment was studied this year. After consultations with the club's lawyers, the Executive Committee tabled the idea for future consideration.

1994

Boxwood funded a two-part education project chaired by Cissy Howell and Molly Hood for The James River Park System. The first part was a James River Park Scavenger Hunt which directed students to find 12 items in nature with-in the park... "a needle from an evergreen plant, a rock smoothed by the river and something that was once alive" were three of the items. A teacher's guide to the James River Park Scavenger Hunt was also provided. The guide gave the answers to the teachers of the items being "found" in the hunt with drawings and verbal descriptions. The second part was the creation of two 6-part accordion pleated handouts on the Early Summer and Late Summer Wild Flowers of the James River Park System. Boxwood's cost was \$750. Boxwood chaired the Richmond tour of Historic Garden Week this year. Our own Nancy Bowles, was chairman. This year, for the first time, tickets for HGW were available for advance purchase at various locations throughout the city.

1998

Our new logo, a graduated double ball boxwood topiary set in a handled urn, was introduced and graced the cover of the March edition of the GCV Journal.

Boxwood chaired the Richmond tour of Historic Garden Week – Susan Armstrong and Molly Hood served as Co-Chairman. Our own Nancy Bowles was state chairman. We were well represented at the top this year! Jane Cowles opened her home for Historic Garden Week.

1999

This year Boxwood hosted the GCV 79th Annual Meeting May 11-13th at The Jefferson Hotel. Loretta Miller served as Chairman and Beese Craigie as Co-Chairman. The "official" planning committee involved most to the club members. However, EVERY member

participated in the event in one way or another. The three day meeting began with the Board of Governors luncheon and meeting at “Redesdale”, home of Anne and Charlie Reed. Events held at The Jefferson included: the Horticultural exhibit displays, cocktails in the Rotunda hosted by Scott & Stringfellow, Inc, a Dutch treat dinner in the Empire Room, and the two day business meeting. At the opening of the business meeting, our own Millie Stuckey, current Boxwood President, welcomed everyone on behalf of The Boxwood Garden Club. She introduced the Loretta Miller and Beese Craigie as Chairmen of the event, and then introduced Mary Frances Flowers who gave a brief history of Boxwood and our accomplishments. A lovely luncheon was held under tent on the grounds at Maymont where the GCV Restoration Committee dedicated the restored Mansion Grounds. Tours were given of the Dooley Mansion, grounds and gardens to all in attendance. The Wednesday evening events were held at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts beginning with a cocktail party in the Center for Education and Outreach hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Bruce C. Gottwald. Following, a delicious banquet was held in the Marble Hall which was decorated in pink to accent the pink marble. Topiaries of boxwood and pink roses adorned the dining tables which is appropriate as the boxwood topiary was our club logo. Enormous floral arrangements on wrought iron stands were placed around the room which added a glorious aroma to the room, not to mention the “wow” factor. Box lunches on Thursday were graciously provided by the other three Richmond GCV clubs and were picked up at the Kent-Valentine House which was decorated with more outstanding flower arrangements. The Annual Meeting was a glowing success. Boxwood acknowledged the support of 18 local businesses for their monetary support and gifts in-kind.

Boxwood “shared the Common Wealth Award (\$3,000 for second place) given by the Garden Club of Virginia to the four Richmond clubs for our work on the Richmond Library Park”.

Fall 2000 – Spring 2001

Boxwood's Endowment Fund was established this year with a \$15,000 initial deposit. The club also voted to fund our representatives to the GCV Board of Governors and Annual Meetings.

We had a record setting year with our GCV Flower Show entries. We won ribbons in every GCV Flower show in which we participated (for the past 2 years)... 3 ribbons for Artistic Interclub, 2 ribbons for Interclub collections, 3 ribbons for Individual Artistic and 5 ribbons for Individual Horticulture.

- \$50 to The Kent-Valentine Foundation; to the GCV Restoration Committee and to The Virginia Conservation Network
- \$100 each to Scenic Virginia and Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.
- \$1000 to The Virginia Home

Fall 2001 – Spring 2002

"Our lives were forever changed after the September 11th bombing of the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington. It was difficult to begin our Garden Club meetings with the same enthusiasm that we had in the past, but as we soon realized, getting back to our normal activities was what we all needed. Boxwood participated exceptionally well in all three GCV flower shows, including Pat Taylor winning multiple ribbons for her outstanding horticulture exhibits at the Rose Show where she received the most coveted of all awards, "Queen of Show". Beese Craigie and Carpie Coulbourn opened their homes for Historic Garden Week.

- \$50 to the Capitol Square Preservation Fund; The Virginia Conservation Network.
- \$75 to The VA Department of Historic Resources
- \$100 to Scenic Virginia and Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
- Donated money to the replanting of trees project on a section of Monument Avenue from Roseneath to Staples Mill Road, a 13 block area. THE "moving force" behind this project was our own Mary Glen Taylor who is a member of the Richmond

Tree Commission. Mary Glen and her team worked with landscape architect Anna Galusha Aquino who worked all summer on the project to choose the appropriate trees for the project. "It's a grand avenue, and I wanted to do something special" she said.

- Sponsored a speaker at the Maymont Flower and Garden Show for \$250
- Contributed \$1,000 for landscaping at The Virginia Home.
- Donated money for habitat enhancements and helped remove invasives at Bandy Field Park during several 'hands on' work days

Fall 2002 - Spring 2003.

At the suggestion of the Horticulture and Artistic Committee Chairmen, improvements to the competition rules were established as well as the establishment of permanent silver awards. These awards are presented at the annual meeting and held by the winners for one year. Contributions were accepted for purchasing the silver awards

Martha Sherman opened her home for Historic Garden Week this year, a year that attendance broke all previous records!

At the GCV 83rd Annual meeting in May in Fairfax, two Boxwood members received high honors. Barbara Catlett received the Massie Medal for Distinguished Service and Mary Glen Taylor received the deLacy Gray Memorial Medal for Conservation. "Having both recipients from the same city - not to mention the same club - is very unusual" said Fleet Davis, GCV director of Public Relations. "Barbara received the highest and most prestigious award given to a member or member club for her dedication, guidance and devoted service to the Kent-Valentine House, GCV Headquarters. For the past 13 years she oversaw the planning, construction, renovation and maintenance of the house which saw a 2, 548 sf addition." Barbara is also a past President of Boxwood and has served on many GCV committees and has been historian and director-at-large. Mary Glen "received the deLacy Gray award for her outstanding service in the dissemination of knowledge of Virginia's natural resources and the

conservation and wise development of these resources. Mary Glen is a member of multiple garden-related clubs and organizations in the Richmond area to protect and preserve treescapes, median and open spaces and is also a past President of Boxwood, a member of many GCV Committees and the recipient of the GCV Horticulture Award of Merit.” Both Barbara and Mary Glen’s awards were written up in the September 2003 edition of the GCV Journal. At the same meeting our Pat Taylor was “also recognized with a certificate for exceptional accomplishments in Horticulture.”

Another member recognized by GCV this year was our own Susan Flowers who has served as Historic Garden Week Administrator for the past 15 years. A lovely article in the June 2003 edition of The GCV Journal “congratulated Susan on her dedicated service to our volunteers and to our growing number of satisfied Garden Week guests.” Susan has overseen many changes in the HGW office over the past 15 years... typewriters and mimeograph machines to computers and publisher quality Xerox machines; rotary phones to cell phones and walkie talkies; printed sales tickets to websites and internal ticket sales and dramatic increases in HGW ticket sales. It was indeed a wonderful meeting for the Boxwood.

- \$100 to Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden: Scenic Virginia and The Virginia Conservation Network.
- Sponsored a speaker for \$250 at The Maymont Flower Show
- Planted a tree at Mary Munford School in memory of the victims of 9-11 attacks
- Donated \$1,000 to Richmond Recreation and Parks Foundation for Monument Avenue Tree Project.
- Contributed \$2,500 to The Friends of Bandy Field for habitat enhancement and removed invasives at Bandy Field and helped install a mini-wetland

Fall 2003 – Spring 2004

“An ad-hoc committee was formed under the guidance of Jody Branch, to review the questionnaires concerning membership issues. The history of Boxwood membership was researched including age profiles, associate attendance at meetings and

numbers of member in each membership category. By-laws changes were approved to reflect capping the associate list at 30 members, and addressing resignation and reinstatement issues

The September meeting of Boxwood was cancelled due to the arrival and destruction heaved upon our fair city by Hurricane Isabel.

- \$100 to Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, The Virginia Conservation Network and Scenic Virginia
- Contributed \$1,000 to Healing Garden at Massey Cancer Center
- Donated \$2,000 to The Virginia Home to complete the garden project.
- Participated in Bandy Field work days to again remove invasives and helped install a mini-wetland with Tuckahoe Garden Club.

Fall 2004 - Spring 2005

In February, Boxwood and The Tuckahoe Garden Club proposed an Environmental Educational Plan for Bandy Field Nature Park for the GCV Common Wealth Award and received it! This award secured funds needed for the environmental education of the student population and the broader community regarding wetlands and natural habitats by providing educational programs, materials and signage for BANDY FIELD NATURE PARK.

- \$100 to Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, The Virginia Conservation Network, Scenic Virginia and the Computer Recycling Initiative.
- \$250 to purchase a baluster for the Kent -Valentine House.
- \$300 to sponsor a speaker at the Maymont Flower and Garden Show.
- \$1,000 to the Healing Garden at the Massey Cancer Center
- \$1,500 to the Children's Garden at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
- \$2,500 to the Friends of Bandy Field
- Decorated the Governor's Mansion for Christmas.

Fall 2005 – Spring 2006.

Boxwood, once again, served in many areas of Historic Garden Week. Muff Nolde served as the State Chairman. Martha Sherman and Cathy Lee were the chairman for the Richmond tours. Bev Bates and Ann Sanders opened their homes for the tour.

- \$100 to Scenic Virginia, the Virginia Conservation Network, and the Computer Recycling Initiative.
- \$150 for membership to Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden (Dogwood Club).
- \$250 to purchase another baluster for the Kent-Valentine House.
- \$350 to sponsor an award at the Maymont Flower & Garden Show
- Pledged \$500 for landscape improvements at Brookfield, a home for adolescent women

Fall 2006 – Spring 2007

“We began this year with round table discussions led by members of the Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee. The result of these discussions, combined with months of work by the Committee, resulted in a Strategic Planning Report which was distributed to the membership.”

“We completed work on the Bandy Field Project. With a beautiful sign in place at the entrance to the park, and with an informative website up and running, we participated in the dedication of Bandy Field as a park in the city of Richmond on May 19, 2007. This was a great day for all the groups and individuals who worked for almost a decade to save this 18 acre park from development. Our own Mary Glen Taylor was honored for her dedication to preserving Bandy Field as a place of quiet beauty when all around her were talking of building and development.”

A new membership category was added this year – Life Membership which is open to all members who have been members of Boxwood for 40 years or more.

- \$100 to Scenic Virginia the Virginia Conservation Network and the Computer Recycling Initiative

- Donated \$150 for membership to Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden (Dogwood Club)
- Donated \$350 to Nature Camp to assist that organization in serving as an educational and recreational resource for the children of Virginia
- Fulfilled the pledge of \$500 for landscape improvements at Brookfield, a home for adolescent women.

*With a very generous gift from George Stuckey (our Millie's husband) we were able to make a gift of \$4,000 from our Endowment Fund in memory of our own Millie, to the Garden Club of Virginia's *Support, Education, Events and Development Fund* (SEED). A portion of this gift underwrites the cost of speakers for the GCV Flower Arranging School for the next 10 years.

Fall 2007 – Spring 2008

This year's Greens Sale saw the addition of vendors which helped us double our revenues over last year to just over \$6,000. GCV held its first *Symposium* at The Homestead in West Virginia. Eighteen of our members participated in three days of tours, lectures, demonstrations and lots of camaraderie... and just a little bit of fun! The event was a huge success with over 600 attendees. It is believed that this will become a bi-annual event.

- \$100 to the Richmond Christmas Mother; GCV Endowment; Scenic Virginia and the Virginia Conservation Network.
- \$150 to Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.
- \$350 to Nature Camp for a partial scholarship.
- \$500 to Brookfield, completing two year pledge.
- Donated \$500 to GCV SEED Fund given by George Stuckey.
- Donated \$500 of \$1000 pledge to the James River Extreme Stream Project.

Fall 2008 – Spring 2009

In the fall of 2008 America and the world experienced a financial catastrophe from which we are still recovering at the writing of this history in 2012. The sales at our annual Greens Sale were drastically affected by this event with net sales coming in at \$3,

493.00. We were still able to make the following donations for the year.

- \$100 to Scenic Virginia; the Virginia Conservation Network, and the GCV Endowment Fund
- \$150 to Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.
- \$350 to Nature Camp to fund a partial scholarship
- Donated \$400 to the GCV SEED Fund given by George Stuckey.
- Donated \$500 to the James River Extreme Stream Project, completing \$1000 pledge for this joint project with other Richmond clubs to stabilize and beautify the Horsepen Branch.

In January, Boxwood hosted the biennial four club joint meeting at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Peggy Cornett, Director of the Thomas Jefferson Center of Historic Plants at Monticello was our speaker.

Our own, Sally Witt, Susan Flowers and Janice Whitehead served as Co-Chairmen of the Richmond tour for Historic Garden Week this year. Molly Hood graciously opened her home.

Susan Overton, our club Historian gathered as much of our 'paper' history as she could find from member closets, under beds and car floorboards..... and delivered it to the Library of Virginia where it is catalogued and stored. Our scrapbooks, meeting minutes and other miscellaneous information are now living in archival storage splendor.

At our Annual Meeting, President, Nancy Bowles presented a new Silver Award to the membership – the Boxwood Membership Award of Merit. It is awarded at the annual meeting to recognize an individual member for outstanding service and for generously contributing her time and talents in promoting the goals of the Club. This is a perpetual award given at the discretion of the Board to an individual member when merited. The first recipient was Anne Denny.

Fall 2009 – Spring 2010

In October 2009, Boxwood hosted *FLOWER* magazine Editor, Margot Shaw as a fund raiser held at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. A dinner in Margot's honor was held the night before at the home of Molly Carey for the Executive Board. Cathy Lee hosted Margot for her time spent in Richmond. At her presentation, Margot spoke about "birthing the nation's only floral lifestyle magazine" and gave a floral arranging demonstration highlighting the use of "everyday" containers and simple arrangements. The fund raiser was a huge success with 76 Boxwood members attending for free and 25 guests attending at a fee of \$10.

This year's Conservation Workshop was led by our own Sarah Chiffriller. In her Annual Report, President, Jane Cowles records that "This was followed by the Annual GCV Conservation Forum held in Charlottesville. There we learned from speaker Rachel Flynn, Richmond's Director of Planning and Development Review, that Richmond was lacking 500 trees for 500 empty tree wells. That need resonated with the four Richmond area GCV clubs which joined together to develop a plan to restore the urban tree canopy in the gateway area of the 14th and Main Street intersection. Eight thousand dollars was raised from the four clubs to help fund the project. At the May 2008 GCV Annual Meeting, the first Bessie Bock Carter Conservation Award in the amount of \$5,000 was presented to the 4 Clubs for this project which is hoped to serve as a catalyst for others by setting a standard of best practices for them to follow. Jane Cowles, Mary Glen Taylor and Jody Branch serve on the Capital Trees steering committee. Jody Branch, appointed to Richmond's new Urban Forestry Commission, will be our liaison with GCV." This project is officially named Capital Trees. With this project the 4 Richmond area GCV clubs continue a long history of working together for the better good of our city, counties and state.

The Greens Sale "Oooh La La – French Holiday Decorating Ideas" was a smashing success and netted our coffers \$4, 789.00, a happy increase of 40.60% in sales and 37.10% in profit over last year.

Even though Bandy Field was named an official PARK of The City of Richmond in 2007, it is still not safe from the eyes of developers. To ensure its park status in perpetuity, Boxwood and the other 3 Richmond GCV Clubs supported a Conservation Easement developed by the Friends of Bandy Field and have each written Councilman Bruce Tyler, 1st District encouraging his sponsorship.

Boxwood filled over 70 positions for Historic Garden Week this year and our own Anne Chewning graciously opened her home.

At our May Annual Meeting Mary J. Helm paid tribute to our beloved member Mary Frances Buchanan Flowers who passed away on March 16th at the age of 91. Mary Frances was a visionary and “forever changed the Garden Club of Virginia” stated Boxwood President, Jane Cowles in her tribute to Mary Frances at the GCV Annual Meeting which was later printed in the GCV Journal . Mary Frances was President of Boxwood and President of The Garden Club of Virginia from 1970-1972. “During her two year term she led a stunning reorganization of GCV including spearheading the purchase of the Kent-Valentine House as its headquarters.” She was awarded the GCV Massie Medal in 1974 and in 1978 GCV designated her as its Honorary President. From 1978-1980, Mary Frances was Chairman of the GCV Restoration Committee. These are but a few of her accomplishments and Boxwood will be forever grateful to Mary Frances and her leadership both in our club and in the GCV. Also at our Annual Meeting, President, Jane Cowles, presented Life Membership Certificates to the following Life Members: Jean Wiltshire Lane-54 years, Sue Knight Cecil-53years, Grace Linton Battle-45 years, and Mary Jones Helm-43 years. Members brought flower arrangements that were delivered to the residents of The Windsor health care facility in memory of our own Beth Chichester Pressley, a former resident who passed away this year. The Boxwood Membership Award of Merit was presented to Loretta Miller after the reading of her accomplishments by Muff Nolde.

- \$100 to Scenic Virginia, the Virginia Conservation Network, GCV Annual Fund and Tricycle Gardens

- \$250 to GCV Endowment Fund with \$150 of the donation in memory of Mary Frances Flowers.
- \$250 to the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
- \$350 to Nature Camp to fund a partial scholarship.
- \$400 to the GCV SEED Fund from a gift given by George Stuckey.
- Donated \$2000 to "Capital Trees."

Fall 2010 – Spring 2011

Our own Pat Taylor stepped down from her role as GCV Rose Chairman after 6 years in the position. She was honored by the GCV Flower Shows Committee and the GCV Board of Directors by renaming the Mini Rose Award THE *Pat Wade Taylor Miniflora Cup, Queen of the Minifloras*.

This year's Greens Sale netted a whopping \$6,878.41, a 44% increase from last year. We concentrated on what we do best... greens. We increased the number of wreaths decorated and sold and added a bow buying corner which was a huge success.

Boxwood will be hosting the GCV Rose show in 2012 and 2013 with Ann Sanders and Molly Hood serving as Chairmen. They requested of the Board, an allocation of \$15,000 per year to fund the show. This amount was unanimously approved by the Board and is coupled with the \$3,000 per year contribution from GCV to cover the financial needs of producing a first class GCV Rose Show. It is because of the dedication and hard work of our membership, in our fund raising efforts, that we have available funds for the Rose Show.

On March 22nd, Boxwood hosted "*Flowers with a Southern Flair – a morning of flower arranging with Sybil Brook Sylvester*" at the University of Richmond Jepson Alumni Center. Sybil is a renowned floral designer from Birmingham, Alabama and treated us to a wonderful demonstration of simple flower arrangements, technique ideas and tips of the trade. All delivered with her good natured humor, charm and southern drawl. Cathy Lee beautifully arranged all the details of her visit as well as hosting her for her time in Richmond and organizing dinners, luncheons and "helper bees" the day of the event. Pre-event dinner was hosted by

Jane and Don Cowles at their home for Sybil Sylvester and the event committee. The “fun-d” raiser was a huge success with net profits of \$8,466.48 being added to our treasury. This brought our total fundraising profits, for THIS year, to \$15,353.89. WOW! These funds were dedicated to Boxwood’s Capital Trees donation and the GCV Rose Show which we host in 2012-13.

The four club Capital Trees Project has a new website, www.CapitalTrees.org which explains the project in its entirety along with photographs, architectural drawings, the people and groups involved in the project, funding sources and an opportunity to donate.

In the spring, Boxwood joined the other three Richmond area GCV garden clubs in hosting David Howard, Prince Charles’s organic gardener at his Highgrove estate in England. Proceeds from Mr. Howard’s lecture at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts supported the joint Capital Trees Project. Addition funds were raised from a private tour with David Howard at Tuckahoe Plantation.

The Boxwood Membership Award of Merit was presented to Mary Glen Taylor after the reading of her accomplishments by Sarah Jane Wyatt.

- \$100 to Scenic Virginia, The Virginia Conservation Network, GCV Annual Fund, The Virginia Home and Tricycle Gardens.
- \$100 to the GCV Endowment Fund in memory of Linden Gorman
- \$350 to Nature Camp to fund a partial scholarship
- \$400 to the GCV SEED Fund from a gift given by George Stuckey.
- \$1,000 to Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens.
- \$5,000 to "Capital Trees"

Fall 2011 – Spring 2012

! Happy 75th Anniversary Boxwood Garden Club!

We began our year with ribbons won at the Rose Show. Kay Clary and Jane Cowles won a red ribbon, for us, with their Test Collection and Pat Taylor, Kay Clary and Jane Cowles each won individual ribbons.

The theme for our Greens Sale this year was “Inspired by Nature” and was a HUGE success. We netted \$7,602.00 – an increase over last year’s wopping success. Undecorated, mixed-greens wreaths were the big seller this year as were our vendors who’s sales increased 21% over last year. Congratulations ladies!

Molly Carey, who has been researching the viability of a Boxwood Garden Club website and electronics storage site, presented a proposal to the Board and membership. She requested funds to create a website and funds to maintain it annually which was approved. With the website and electronic “file cabinet”, we will now be able to access our records from anywhere in the world..... if we really need to.

We continue to plan for the GCV Rose Show to be held in October. Jill Harris and Ashley Farley announced the creation of our Rose Show Blog.

Capital Trees – Phase I was completed. Monies were received, from grants written by our own Sarah Jane Wyatt, from the Jackson Foundation and The Robins Foundation which will enable Phase II’s completion up 14th street to Broad Street. Scenic Virginia also awarded the project funding.

Our 75th Anniversary Year was concluded with our Annual Meeting, held at The Kent Valentine House, followed by a seated luncheon in the first floor parlors. President Cathy Lee, regaled us with many fun facts and interesting tid-bits of our history. Copies of the programs, from the many activities and events we have held throughout the years were available for members to hold and read – including a copy of the telegram announcing our acceptance into the GCV in 1951. The anniversary committee chaired by Molly Carey and Nancy B. Gottwald planned a beautiful event for the club. A Cocktail Party was held at The Country Club of Virginia to complete the festivities of our Anniversary. Susan Overton produced a 20 minute dvd “slide show” of pictures of our members throughout our 75 years which was shown at the party. Gifts of the dvd, Boxwood’s newly printed history, and a box of truffles tied with ribbon citing “Happy 75th Boxwood” were given to all the guests. It was an exciting ending to a great year and even better 75 YEARS!

The Boxwood Membership Award of Merit was presented to Ann Reed after the reading of her accomplishments by Molly Hood.

- \$100 to The Virginia Home, Scenic Virginia, The Virginia Conservation Network
- \$160 to the GCV Annual Fund
- \$300 to Grace Baptist Church – playground improvements
- \$400 to Nature Camp, to the GCV SEED Fund from a gift given by George Stuckey
- \$1,000 to Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens
- \$2,000 to “Capital Trees”

Fall 2012 – Spring 2013

This history has been compiled from information in our scrapbooks, meeting minutes, President Annual Reports, miscellaneous articles in The Richmond Times Dispatch and News Leader, The GCV Journal and several other magazines. Every attempt has been made to represent the events correctly, however if mistakes are found, please let our Historian know as we will be placing this history on our new website soon, where updates will be as easy as a keyboard click.

Thank you.
Molly Carey

May 2012

PAST PRESIDENTS

Mrs. Charles W. Moss*	1937-1939
Mrs. Robert Boswell*	1939-1940
Mrs. Edwin Cox*	1940-1941
Mrs. Osbourne O. Ashworth*	1941-1942
Mrs. Hallowell Dickinson*	1942-1944
Mrs. T. Spencer Williamson, Jr.*	1944-1945
Mrs. Frederick Robertson*	1945-1947
Mrs. Luther Jeffress*	1947-1949
Mrs. Edward C. Longmore*	1949-1951
Mrs. H. Halcott Turner*	1951-1953
Mrs. Miles C. Johnston*	1953-1955
Mrs. Kenneth Wood*	1955-1956
Mrs. Horace L. Smith, Jr.*	1956-1958
Mrs. Herman Bruce Hawkins*	1958-1960
Mrs. Richard K. Williams	1960-1961
Mrs. Emmette Tribble Gatewood*	1961-1963
Mrs. George H. Flowers, Jr.*	1963-1965
Mrs. Wilfrid Pyle*	1965-1967
Mrs. James A. Jones*	1967-1969
Mrs. Rutherford H. Spessard*	1969-1971
Mrs. Ivor Massey*	1971-1973
Mrs. DeWitt F. Helm, Jr.	1973-1975
Mrs. Heth Owen, Jr.*	1975-1977
Mrs. Merritt Foster, Jr.	1977-1979
Mrs. Edmund W. Hening, Jr.	1979-1981
Mrs. Richard H. Catlett, Jr.	1981-1983
Mrs. Charles A. Gregory, Jr.*	1983-1985
Mrs. Robert E. Anderson III	1985-1987
Mrs. Hubert S. Taylor, Jr.	1987-1989
Mrs. Frank B. Miller III	1989-1991
Mrs. Walter W. Craigie, Jr.	1991-1993

PAST PRESIDENTS - continued

Mrs. Charles L. Reed, Jr.	1993-1995
Mrs. John A. Nolde, Jr.	1995-1997
Mrs. George C. Stuckey*	1997-1999
Mrs. Richard P. Buckingham IV	1999-2001
Mrs. Richard T. Hood III	2001-2003
Mrs. J. Read Branch, Jr.	2003-2005
Mrs. Wellford L. Sanders, Jr.	2005-2007
Mrs. Bowlman T. Bowles, Jr.	2007-2009
Mrs. Donald T. Cowles	2009-2011
Mrs. George M. Lee	2011-2012

BOXWOOD GARDEN CLUB SILVER AWARDS

The Artistic Award of Merit

is awarded at the annual meeting to the member winning the highest number of points for flower arrangement exhibits.

Missy Buckingham	2004
Sarah Chiffriller	2005
Carolyn Bottger.....	2006
Carolyn Bottger and Barbara Parker.....	2007
Betsy Gardner	2008
Barbara Parker	2009
Liz Price.....	2010
Carolyn Bottger, Jinx Constine, Jane Cowles, Judy Kidd, Liz Price.....	2011

The Artistic Award for Participation

is awarded at the annual meeting to the member submitting the largest number of entries in the artistic category.

Missy Buckingham	2004
Barbara Parker	2005
Carolyn Bottger.....	2006
Carolyn Bottger & Barbara Parker.....	2007
Molly Carey	2008
Molly Carey	2009
Brenda McGehee	2010
Carolyn Bottger & Liz Price	2011

The Horticulture Award of Merit

is awarded at the annual meeting to the member accumulating the most points for horticultural exhibits.

Judy McNeer	2004
Judy McNeer	2005
Gina Denniston	2006
Judy McNeer	2007
Pat Taylor	2008
Elizabeth Maser	2009
Gina Denniston	2010
Kay Clary	2011

The Horticulture Award for Participation

is awarded at the annual meeting to the member submitting the largest number of entries in the horticultural category.

Judy McNeer	2004
Judy McNeer	2005
Jane Fields	2006
Judy McNeer	2007
Pat Taylor	2008
Elizabeth Maser	2009
Jane Fields	2010
Kay Clary	2011

The Membership Award of Merit

is awarded at the annual meeting to recognize an individual member for outstanding service and for generously contributing her time and talents in promoting the goals of the Club.

This is a perpetual award given at the discretion of the Board to an individual member when merited.

Anne Denny	2009
Loretta Miller	2010
Mary Glen Taylor	2011
Ann Reed	2012

**GARDEN CLUB of VIRGINIA AWARDS
TO MEMBERS OF THE BOXWOOD GARDEN CLUB**

DISTINCTION

Honorary President
Garden Club of Virginia
Mary Frances Flowers - 1987 – 2010

MASSIE MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

The Boxwood Garden Club - 1953
The Boxwood Garden Club - 1967
Mary Frances Flowers - 1974
Barbara Catlett – 2003

BESSIE BOCOCK CARTER CONSERVATION AWARD

The Boxwood Garden Club
for The Capital Tree Project, 2010

de LACY GRAY MEDAL FOR CONSERVATION

The Boxwood Garden Club - 1969
Mary Glen Taylor – 2003

HORTICULTURE AWARD OF MERIT

Carolyn Broaddus - 1978
Polly Anderson - 1979
Eleanor Hankins - 1981
Mary Glen Taylor - 1992
Pat Taylor - 2003
Judy McNeer - 2006
Janice Whitehead - 2006