

Mulch Ado



Greenery Sale and Vendor Show
featuring
Holiday Greens and Wreaths,
Wreath Adornments, Bake Sale,
Wired Bows, and a Special Raffle

Thursday, December 5, 2013
10:00 am - 8:00 pm

Church of the Good Shepherd
7400 Hampton Boulevard, Norfolk
All proceeds benefit community projects.

For more information and to order online, visit
www.gardenclubofnorfolk.org
Pre-orders due November 15

Be sure to sign up for your bake sale donation with Robin Winn!
rwinn5712@gmail.com

Tell your family, friends and neighbors to come shop our fabulous vendors including: Jason Abbott, Initial Outfitters, Lori Daniel Rowland Jewelry, Neal's Yard Remedies (NYR Organics), Savor the Olive, Simply Selma's, Short and Sweet Monogramming, and Tara Montgomery Jewelry!



We were one of 5 local garden clubs that provided funds for the Reflection Garden. Each club was asked to create a "botanical being" as a topiary for the 75th Anniversary gala. Our Topiary was affectionately named the Azalea Queen.

DID YOU KNOW?

Enjoy an article published on February 23, 195 in the Virginian Pilot covering the 40th Anniversary Meeting of the GARDEN CLUB OF NORFOLK (attached).

GCN IN THE NEWS: *Look out for these*
 GCV JOURNAL: December Issue: Article on Associates Centennial Luncheon
 TIDEWATER WOMEN MAGAZINE: November Issue: Greens Galore Announcement

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 • "March will be here before we know it!"
 • And our membership drive will just be starting up.....
 • Don't wait til the last minute.
 • As you attend holiday festivities be on the look out for possible candidates! Our club is fun, well organized and a welcoming one! A great place to make new friends, learn a new skill and share your love of horticulture, conservation and flower arranging. Bev Mann will have all the details you need to nominate a friend!
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 6: Wednesday, 9:30a.m.
 GCV Joint meeting with Virginia Beach Garden Club, Princess Anne Garden Club and the Harborfront Garden Club.
 Princess Anne Country Club, Virginia Beach

ANNE GORDON EVAN, speaker

November 14: Thursday, 10:00a.m.
 Hermitage craftroom for wreath adornment

Looking ahead: **GREENS GALORE**
 DECEMBER 4, 9:30 am-3:00pm **SETUP**
 DECEMBER 5, 9:30 am-8:00pm **SALES**



The Garden Club of Norfolk ~ Celebrating a Century of Community Service in 2015

thegardenclubofnorfolk.org

From Small Beginnings:

Virginian-Pilot
FEB 23 1955

Garden Club of Norfolk Takes Look at 40 Years of Progress

Speakers Recount Accomplishments at Anniversary Meeting; Azalea Gardens Among Top Achievements

*"Forty years in sun and shower
We've sowed the seed and watered the root,
Pruned the bough to enhance the flower,
Rejoined in foliage, blossom and fruit;
And now we pause, as artists should,
Look at our work and find it good."*

This "little rhyme about the Garden Club anniversary" was written by Betty Page Dabney and read yesterday on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Garden Club of Norfolk by Mrs. J. Watters Martin, a charter member of the club, with Miss Dabney's "Congratulations and thanks to the Garden Club for its splendid achievements, which we non-members enjoy."

The meeting, anniversary program and tea were held at the home of Mrs. Charles R. Grandy, another charter member, on West Freemason Street, with Mrs. Grandy as hostess. Six of the nine living charter members were present and reviewed the achievements of the 40 years that citizens today enjoy.

Frederic Heutte, superintendent of city parks and forestry, was the guest speaker. He recounted accomplishments in civic beautification and conservation since he came in 1936 to carry on a beautification program started by Thomas P. Thompson, while City Manager, giving the Garden Club of Norfolk full credit for many of the achievements.

Azalea Gardens Feature

A feature of that program was the Azalea Gardens. The extent of their growth largely is due to the active interest of the garden club, he told the members.

"There is one plant that is destined to play a great role in Norfolk; and that plant is the camellia. It is playing a great part now and it will continue," Heutte said. He attributed his great interest in the camellia to a trip, sponsored by Mrs. Grandy, through camellia gardens of the South. As a result, today there are 528 distinct varieties of camellias in the city's Camellia Gardens. "We think that is a great accomplishment," he said.

Heutte told of a friend sending him a picture card from Portugal and telling him that he had thought of him as he walked down a street shaded by camellias. "Knowing my interest in camellias, that was a challenge," the speaker said. Now, he continued, the department is studying such possibilities here and experimenting with the up-growing plants. By 1957 there probably will be crape myrtles and camellias growing side by side to ornament and shade the streets, the speaker said.

Club History Reviewed

Mrs. Martin presided over the program and gave a brief history of the club. Founded by the late Mrs. Frederick Killam, who called 50 friends together, the Garden Club of Norfolk came into being February 21, 1915. A standing tribute was paid Mrs. Killam, Mrs. Kirkland Ruffin and Mrs. Henning Fernstrom, presidents who have died.

Mrs. Grandy followed. She described the founding of the club and federations. The Norfolk club was the third in the State, she said. By 1920, there were eight. Mrs. Thomas Wheelwright conceived the great advantage of federating, so upon invitation of her club, the James River Club, Richmond, the president and a delegate from each assembled to discuss the advisability of federation. "Our group consisted of Mrs. Spratling, then president; Mrs. George F. Moss, Mrs. Finlay F. Ferguson, Miss Florence Smith and myself. (We were not to be guests so the invitation was liberal enough to include others than president and delegate.) We spent two nights at the Jefferson, and on May 13 attended the meeting at the Country Club when the Garden Clubs of Virginia came into being. It was not until 1926 that the name became the Garden Club of Virginia, and since then admission has been by invitation only."

National Affiliation

The far seeing Mrs. Killam also was responsible for the club's interest in becoming affiliated with the Garden Club of America, Mrs. Grandy reported. Mrs. Thomas Mercer, of Bristol, Pa., sent by that national organization's Admissions Committee "to look us over," announced that "since we were growing roses second only to Portland, she would recommend our club as eligible to membership in the Garden Club of America. When we were admitted, there were only 57 clubs. Now there are 155."

The Garden Club of Norfolk largely was responsible for organizing the Federation of Garden Clubs of Norfolk and Vicinity. Mrs. Grandy called representatives of the five existing clubs, Larchmont, Colonial Place, Pinewell, Ocean View and Willoughby and the Junior Garden Club of Norfolk, to her home. The federation was organized May 23, 1932. (Ocean View and Willoughby had dropped out in the meantime.) Mrs. Fernstrom became the first president.

Mrs. Ferguson spoke on early activities of the club, dealing specifically with flower shows.

The first flower show was in 1917. It was a fruit and vegetable show held in the assembly room of the Norfolk Young Women's Christian Association. "In addition to special ribbons an artistically arranged tray of vegetables was exhibited by Mrs. William Sloane, (deceased.) There was no charge for admission." Only five tables had been expected, Mrs. Ferguson continued, but more than 20 were used.

"After that, flower shows were held each year for the next 10 years."

Disrupted by Storm

In 1938, one of the most elaborate shows was held in Lee Park, a rose show in connection with the Garden Club of Virginia and the Norfolk Newspapers when a terrific wind storm came up suddenly and blew the tent down and did a great deal of damage. "The first camellia show was held in February, 1933, of which the late Miss Mary Bell Glennan was

chairman. Mrs. Monroe Kelly, was president,

Mrs. Ferguson also dealt with the expanding interest in camellia growing by Miss Glennan and at Holly Lodge, the North Shore home of the late Harry Goodridge.

Mrs. Thomas P. Thompson followed. She dealt largely with conservation and paid tribute to the late Mrs. H. H. Little for interesting the city and State in conservation. The result has been a conservation program in the schools, Arbor Day and the like, she said.

She also spoke of the organization of the Roadside Clubs for Roadside Development.

"We are in a constant state of feuding and fighting," she said, speaking of the club's interest in conservation of natural resources. She described the club work against the building of a school in part of the Seashore State Park. Among the activities were the purchase of the Audubon books by the club; the acquisition of the Wildflower Preserve, first with the Princess Anne Garden Club and later withdrawing from this partnership and developing a preserve in the city. Always there were and are vandals, she said, and a constant vigilance must be the price paid for beauty.

Mrs. N. M. Osborne spoke on the acquisition of the Memorial Oak as a memorial to war dead, where school children, whose pennies helped to buy the tree, gather every Armistice Day to honor those who never returned.

She also told of the many contributions to the city by the late Mrs. Fergus Reid, who won the Massie Gold Medal for her work in civic betterment.

Other charter members who were unable to attend were Mrs. Frederick R. Barrett, Mrs. C. C. Jones, now living in Smithfield, and Mrs. James Mann.

In a brief business session, the club voted a contribution of \$25 to Roger Ragoat for his work in natural history at the Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences. He was described as doing excellent work "on a shoestring."

The club also approved the magnolia as the flower of the Federation of Garden Clubs of Norfolk and Vicinity.