

## Remembering 45 Years

1975 was the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Little Compton. A small group of 11 young women met at the home of Barbara and Dick Madden to talk about forming a second garden club. Those 11 decided it was a good time to start a garden club which became known as the "Sogkonate Garden Club."

Founding members were: Helena Brousseau; Charlene Brown, Rose Burns, Eva Graves, Janice Harvey, Betty Hathaway, Barbara Madden, Carolyn Montgomery, Mary Jane Peckham, Barbara Schulman, Martha Thornton, and Patricia Tracey.

Charter members in 1977 were: Jane Benson Muriel Bodington, Lynne Borges, Jeanne Brady, Rena Brockwell, Miriam Burchard, Joan Burchard, Betty Chase, Margaret Chisholm, Matilda Crandon, Sheila Danneman, Catherine Francis, Anne Frechette, Margery Harrigan, Carolyn Halleck, Ruth Knutsen, Linda LaFlamme, Patricia McCarthy, Alison Reed, Clare Renasco, Joanne Ryan, Freida Schaubhut, Ruth Strawbridge, Barbara Passmore, Nellie Watson, Virginia Withington, and Caroline Wordell, including the above founding members.

In 1979 together with the L.C.Garden Club we started a project called "Project Pride" which involved girl and boy scouts and litter collection along roads and highways and has continued to this day.

1980 the club made an agreement with the V.I.Society to care for the grounds of Brownell House. Also that year noted Mary Post donated her painting of the Brownell House to raffle for the club.

May 6,1983 first Blossoms and Sweets Sale, later moved to Memorial Day weekend.

1984 first mini flower show at Brownell House in memory of Mrs. Post. This year potted geraniums given to members with perfect attendance.

1986 grade school programs started.

1993 beginning of plans to landscape the Burchard Triangle and a 2-month plan to raise the money by contacting local businesses, individuals, and a grant and within a few weeks we were ready to start. Chris Faris donated the plan and Brousseau Landscaping was the low bidder.

The “Welcome to Little Compton/Tiverton” town signs were placed on West Main Road with the assistance of town employees and the Tiverton Garden Club.

1994 we held our first Christmas House Tour with members homes and Brownell House were decorated; a financial success. The herb garden a Brownell House was planted.

1996 school children assisted planting violets on Pikes Peak commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “Violet” being named the state flower.

1996-1997 the club approached the Town Council regarding the appearance of Pike’s Peak and the surrounding area. This followed for 7 years to get state and local to endorse the placing of curbing around the Commons.

1997 the second Country Christmas House Tour was held in 7 different homes one of which was the Carlton Brownell home.

1998 started the work with the seniors at the L.C. Nursing Center. Making swags around the lamp posts around the Commons was instigated. Making wreaths with 6 grade students with the L.C. Garden Club.

1999 – 2000

Celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We started our “Project 2000” with the re-building of the stone wall around Veterans’ Field. We began a fund-raising plea to raise the funds; Dennis Warren was hired to do the work. A foot of wall was sold for \$25 as a memorial to loved ones. A total of \$9000 was raised and we were able to complete the west wall as well. There is a framed list of the donors and the number of feet they requested on the south wall at the Town Hall. The wall was dedicated at the Memorial Day exercises and there is a stone in the inside corner of the wall enscribed: “MEMORIAL WALL, Restored by Friends of the Sogkonate Garden Club, May 2000”. In 2001 all the names were read during the Memorial Day exercises.

2001 We held our first juried flower show entitled “By the Sea, By the Beautiful Sea”. Designs were to us a piece of driftwood, a small design using a shell as a container, a design using a found object from the seashore, and an underwater design. There were horticultural exhibits also.

2001 – 2002 Our programs were on trees in our area. Groups were formed and at the close of the year a display was made of the various local trees.

2002 - 2003 A petals grant was received and plantings were made at the L. C. Police and Fire Department. On April 25<sup>th</sup>. Together with the L.C. Garden Club, three linden trees were planted as a living memorial to the victims and survivors of the September 11<sup>th</sup> disaster. These were planted on the property owned by the L.C. Agricultural Trust at the corner of West Main Road and Taylor's Lane, and the ceremony was held at 11 a.m. while church bells were rung at the Commons.

2003 - 2004 The Country Christmas House tour was held as a fund-raiser which included horse-drawn rides around the Commons.

2004-2005 Celebrating 30 years. "Flowers are the Pearls of the Gardners".

At the new members tea, members were asked to wear pearls, tell about them and to bring a rose from their garden. A plant exchange was enjoyed and White House floral designer Dottie Temple spoke on her work there.

In March members were asked to make a floral arrangement to enhance a painting at the Brownell Library. The public was invited.

Our second flower show "A June Wedding" was held at the L.C. Community Center. Categories were: " Bridal Registry, " Church Flowers", The Honeymoon" where you could choose your destination with a table design. Members were encouraged to display their wedding gown.

2005-2006 Monthly roadside litter collection was begun and has continued. An interesting program on building stone walls was enjoyed. The demonstrator actually built a mini wall while talking. Also an interesting talk on using worms in your composter was presented by the "Worm Ladies".

2006 – 2007 Gardening in Time was the focus this year. Programs included cooking with herbs, growing vegetables, a trip to Arnold Arboretum and Mt. Auburn cemetery.

A Hypertufa workshop and a garden tour of a local peony farm were enjoyed. A new program for maintaining plantings at the Burchard Triangle with members assigned to water and care for their memorial plantings there. A spring fashion show entitled "A Garden of Fashions" was held at the LCCC with a tea-type lunch

and members were the models. A profit of \$1100 was realized. Tea sandwiches and desserts were served. Tickets were \$12. A fascinating program was enjoyed by "Foster Parrots, Inc., explaining parrot rescue, adoption and the sanctuary facility.

It's Not Easy Being Green Christmas Luncheon members were requested to wear something from a thrift shop and bring a re-cycled or re-gifted gift for the Yankee swap.

2008-2009

Members were asked to bring a dahlia or favorite flower from their garden. Propagation of orchids, co-existing with coyotes, how to collect seeds and successful propagation and care and she shared seeds with members.

An in-house flower exhibit with the adult care center featured art work from seniors and the after-school students. Members contributed flower arrangements and horticultural displays. The public was invited to attend.

Sand- cast birdbaths were made after a demonstration using large foliage leaves.

2009-2010 This year was the beginning of assisting 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to make flower arrangements for their graduation dinner dance; this has continued.

2010 – 2011 This club year started with a new members' tea and the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the founding of the SGC and held at the home of Harriet Kazarian. Members were encouraged to wear a favorite hat. December programs continued with swag making for the lamp posts around Pikes Peak, participating in the annual Tree Spree. The annual meeting was held at the home of Sandi Sparks preceded by a tour of member's gardens.

A trip was arranged with the Tiverton Garden Club for a trip to the World Flower Show in Boston.

2011 -2012 A program on pruning and cultural practices was enjoyed by arborist and Master Gardener David Schwartz. Dried and pressed flowers were made in shadow boxes. A program on propagating Brownell Roses and on insects: "The Good, the Bad and the Beautiful".

2012 – 2013 Members enjoyed an interesting trip to the Johnson Landfill. It was an eye-opening for members.

The Step-by-Step flower arrangement class was held with Candace Morganstern presenter. Each member made an arrangement to take home. Marty Fisher gave a presentation of how to start seeds at home, a walk on the Dunderly Brook Trail, the Audubon Society of R.I. presented a program on white-tail deer herds and how to manage deer populations. John Gwyne and Mikel Folcarelli presented an illustrated talk on the Story of Sakonnet Garden.

2013 - 2014 A juried flower show "Four Seasons in Bloom" was held at the LCCC. In June. Several programs were workshops to prepare for the show. Categories were: Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. Member participation was fantastic as we all learned from the experience.

An open meeting on savings Sakonnet bobolinks was a popular program. A field trip to Blithewold Gardens and Arboretum was organized to see thousands of daffodils were in bloom

2014 – 2015 On the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary we reflect on the past and look to the future. So many have contributed to the success of our club and we owe it to all who have made it a vibrant, diligent group it is today. A tour of meadow gardens was organized in September 2015 and 130 people attended.

2017 An Ad Hoc committee was formed to organize and work as a Meadow Committee to sponsor a symposium of noted lecturers for the public in June 2017. It was to be offered free and the committee set upon the project to raise the funds. It was a huge success with over 100 attending, A second one that should have been held in 2020 and was cancelled. It will be held in June 2022.

A demonstration meadow garden was started in October 2017 with the Town Council giving their approval. It was covered and planted the spring of 2018.. Native plants were planted and continue to thrive there. The Meadow Committee has continued to monitor and weed the garden.

2017 A committee of Mary Marra, Barbara Passmore, and Carolyn Montgomery compiled an "Archive of Memorials and Remembrances in Little Compton" booklet. Copies were given to members and the library and the town hall.

2018 – 2020 Programs included a floral design workshop, holiday luncheon with Rick Peckham talking on how to care of cyclamens, and many others via Zoom, including migratory birds, and a container garden demonstration.

In the fall of 2021 a trip was made to the Middle Acres Cranberry Farm in Tiverton where we all learned the process of growing cranberries.

2020- We continue with our care of Brownell House and the Burchard Triangle, present interesting programs for the club and the community, continue to work with school children, raise funds with the annual Blossoms and Sweets Sale, decorate Pikes Peak for the holidays, participate in Tree Spree which funds scholarships for L.C. students, and continue to enhance the beauty of our town.