

Down  
A  
Garden  
Path

Memories of  
The Bedford Garden  
Club  
1927 to 2002

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# *Down A Garden Path*

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1927 to 2002

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The Bedford Garden Club

Jubilee Committee

Bedford, Ohio



## *Forward*

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### The Bedford Garden Club Jubilee Committee

Mary Adam	Janet Caldwell
Mary Lou Collins	Joyce Daunch
Pete Dickson	Ruth Falasco
Linda Holmberg	Barbara McDaniel
Viola Saunders	Dorothy Schwende

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Memories Of The Bedford Garden Club

1927 to 2002

Calvin Coolidge is president, Vic Donahey is governor of Ohio, and Tom Day, the mayor of Bedford. The new Bedford Hospital is going up, the Fountain House torn down. Red streetcars of the ABC Interurban line run along Broadway connecting Akron to Cleveland. On a warm summer weekend laughter and music is heard from Bedford Glens Park, near the edge of Tinkers Creek ravine. Industries such as Taylor Chair, Marble Chair, and Walker China create a very healthy economy for the town. A new housing development called Metropolitan Park, with streets named Eldred, Gould, and Grand Boulevard emerge. Social clubs, civic organizations, and music groups fill leisure time. Churches are well established. Bedford is thriving. Life is comfortable in 1927 - the Great Depression is yet to come.

Around April, 1927, a group of people with like interests, a love of gardening and a thirst to learn more, gathered together to form The Bedford Garden Club. By July 7, 1927, by-laws are established. Article II set the direction for the Club:

*"The purpose of the club is to promote the improvement of streets, public parks, and private grounds by creating public sentiment for the preservation of trees and the elimination of weeds and unsightly rubbish, and by assisting members in the solution of their garden problems, providing speakers at meetings and offering opportunities to buy flowers, shrubs and trees at reduced prices through club orders."*

Through the years the Club maintained these basic tenets. The following chronicles its history, attempting to give a capsulized view of the people and events of seventy-five years of activity.

Originally, membership in the Club was limited to fifty residents of Bedford who were "in sympathy with the aims above mentioned." Bedford at this time meant all of Bedford Township, which later was to become Bedford, Walton Hills, Oakwood, Bedford Heights. The Club decided to meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at members' homes, although reference is made at times to meeting "in the Lion's Club room".

It was announced in the Bedford Times Register, that August 11, 1927,



Mr. Clyde Steele, an Industrial Arts teacher at Bedford High School, served as president in 1929. The Adirondack-style log furniture at Look-About-Lodge (formerly Cleveland Natural Science Club) on Miles Road in the Metroparks was made by Mr. Steele and his students. During his tenure the first Flower Show, was announced. This was to become a much anticipated event in the community.

By 1930, the Club was well established, becoming a member of the Ohio Federation of Garden Clubs. Miss Estelle Maxeiner became the first woman president of the Bedford Garden Club. Dues would “remain a \$1.35

yearly.” During this time plans for beautifying Bedford, a tree planting in the village park, and the adoption of a town flower were being made. Miss Theodora Blake circulated a petition raising the issue of cleaning up the dumps, which seemed to be “springing up all over town.” Thus, a plan was being formulated for community involvement lasting long into the future.

The idea of a board of directors was introduced in 1938, its purpose to take care of Club business, “thereby allowing more time for speakers.” Ballots were cast. “The results of the voting were as follows: Mr. C.C.Steele, Mr. Lloyd Hagerty, two years; Mrs. Ruth Bell, Mrs. Margaret Mills, one year.”

In November, 1946, the traditional voting time for a new slate of officers, events appeared to be a bit gloomy. No one wanted to accept the office of president. A meeting was called by past presidents to discuss whether the “Garden Club should continue or not.” Fortunately, it was decided to continue and “membership might have to be opened to the public,” in order to increase the Club’s numbers. This also meant revising the Club’s Constitution. Mrs. Lucy Warren was voted as president; Mrs. A.M. King, vice-president; Mrs. Fay Hott, secretary; and Mrs. Sterling Prestage, Treasurer. Nomination and approval for membership appear to continue to the late 1950’s. It was not until January, 1964, that revision of the by-laws was discussed. In March, these were approved.

As the membership grew, larger quarters were necessary. They in-



cluded the Methodist Church parlor, the Masonic Temple on Tarbell Avenue in 1944. Other sites were Moody Junior High on Washington Street; Ellenwood School (when it was a school); the brand new library on Center Street in 1957, later the Bedford City Hall on Columbus Road; finally coming back full circle to Ellenwood, which is now the City's recreation center. The Club is still looking for a permanent site.

## *Cooperation With The City And Community*

The Bedford Garden Club has remained true to its by-laws over the years. Its association with the city of Bedford on projects began early. Over the years the Club has supplied ideas, technical information, volunteer labor, and funding.

In 1936, the city of Bedford was asked to draft a resolution requiring all cats in town to wear a bell! The next year the Club requested that all dogs be kept tied at home. Township records at the time indicate that roaming dogs were a real problem. The newspaper makes mention of a child who lost a foot in a mowing accident as he tried to avoid a dog who had bitten him earlier. Police records list several times when an officer was called out to "shoot a dog" who was roaming. The Garden Club's request to eliminate this overzealous resolution to the problem, resulted in the City's leash law.

Through the Club's petitioning, the City adopted the Azaleum as the town flower in 1940, a true pink, multi-petaled cushion chrysanthemum. Reaching back from the past, Bedford Square will again be graced with the town flower. Three hundred cushion mums are scheduled for planting in August, 2002, by the Bedford Garden Club. Again, this event to commemorate our 75th Anniversary.

The practice of dumping trash in a homeowner's backyard or a city dump was identified. The Club urged the City to enact laws to eliminate this and provide refuse pick-up. A Weed Control committee, chaired by Mrs. Edna Handyside, pressed City Manager Arthur Wedge, the first city manager, to mow vacant lots and cleanup weed-infested areas. Home owners were encouraged to beautify front yards. Real estate agents were asked to mow weeds on "for-sale" property.

Flowering crabapple trees were planted April, 1941, under the Broad Street overpass (Northfield Road bridge). The Square was targeted for beautification. For sixty-five years planting trees, shrubs, and flowers on Bedford Square was a continuing project, often requested by the city managers. In Bedford Cemetery, hydrangea trees, flowering crabapples, holly trees, the design and planting of choice shrubs for the Babyland Section (180 daffodil bulbs added in 2001), and the 2002 Arbor Day tree planting



Babyland section in Bedford Cemetery established in the 1900's

in the veterans' area are a living legacy.

So, too, are the dogwoods in the Glens, the YMCA building on Tarbell, the Bedford Library, the Bedford Municipal Hospital grounds and the nurses' residence across the street from the hospital on Blaine Street. Early minutes of meetings indicate a desire to make the nurses' residence a

pleasant place to live. The Club planted trees and flowers on the outside. Also, a live decorated Christmas tree was provided at the holiday. One year the wreath the Club constructed for the home was so beautiful, that Miss Cline, the hospital director, requested that it be placed in the hospital lobby.

During World War II, victory gardens dotted the landscape of America. Vacant land was cleared for citizens to plant their own garden plots. With rationing in place, this allowed people to enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables gleaned from their personal efforts. In May 1941, City Manager Arthur Wedge was approached by Club members at the behest of the late Clyde Steele about using vacant lots for community gardens. These victory gardens in Bedford were located on the east side of Center Road where St. Pius church and school now stand. Club member, Arlene Fuhrmeyer offered the use of water from her home across the street; a hose was stretched across Center Road to accomplish the task. The gardens were so successful that in May, 1943, more garden plots became available around the City. With the end of World War II and the birth of the "supermarket," most victory gardens were discontinued, leaving just a memory.

As a continuing war effort, Mrs. Handyside initiated a program of sending seeds to the "starving" people of Europe to plant their own gardens. At the April 1942 meeting, Mr. Handyside spoke to the group on "the individual responsibility of each citizen in building an efficient Defense plan for the City."

From the November, 1942 minutes: "Miss Nichols stated that the task of obtaining outside speakers had become increasingly difficult, and with the rationing of gasoline and tires, the problem would be more critical. To help solve the problem, she proposed that each member be called upon to prepare talks on gardening and related subjects. Such active participation in the program by individual members would create more personal inter-

est and contacts, provide a wider exchange of experiences and knowledge and would result in increased attendance. Respectfully submitted, Marion K. Wyckoff, Recording Secretary."

Another impact of the war years was that paper became scarce, and mailing meeting reminder cards to Club members became a problem. It was decided to post notices in the newspaper.

In 1970, at the request of City Manager William Schuchart, the



Viola Saunders, Rosemary Wood and Yvonne Saunders beautify the City's entrance with petunias in 1970

Club was asked to join with other organizations in decorating Bedford Square, Broadway Avenue and various locations for the holidays. The Club accepted the challenge. Members gathered materials from fields and gardens. Straw was stripped for a three-foot wreath for the Historical Museum and a two-foot wreath for Bedford Hospital. Pine roping was donated by Mr. Titterington's Christmas tree farm. This was the forerunner of the City's holiday lighting on the Square.

Other organizations benefited from the Club as well. From the secretary's minutes we learn members voted to purchase 12-1/2 dozen sets of chinaware as a gift to the new Bedford Library on Center Road. The chinaware was designed by George Rudd and made by the Walker China Company on Solon Road in Bedford. Mr.



**BEDFORD BLOOMIN'** — Bunches of petunias are encircling Bedford's boundary signs courtesy of the Bedford Garden Club. The ladies planted the flowers last week around the base of signs at Broadway and Forbes Rd. and at Northfield and Rockside Rds. as a civic project.



Linda Holmberg climbs the ladder of success for a Williamsburg theme holiday decorating project in the Bedford Historical Society Museum.

Rudd, a Bedford resident, had an illustrious career as an artist with Walker China. The Club received a discount for the purchase, \$187.60. Carol Ellis, adult services librarian, at the Southeast Branch of the Cuyahoga County Library, reports that a few of the pieces remain. They are a cream color with a turquoise band. A logo of two stacked books with crossed pencils and the letter B, comprise the design.

George Rudd and wife Eva were active members of the Garden Club for many years. George was president in 1959 and 1960. Eva was famous for serving scrumptious cherry tarts when it was her turn for refreshments. We never did get her recipe!

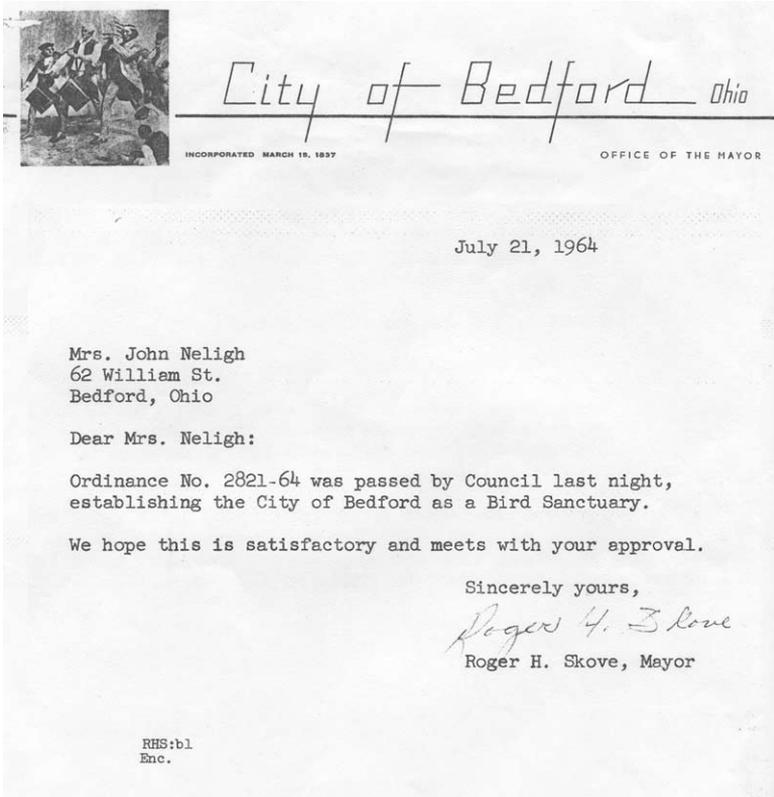
Meals-On-Wheels, the Red Cross (since early war years), the YMCA, Crile Hospital, and Bedford Schools were given financial help. In the late 50's and 60's, receptions were held for retiring Bedford School teachers. In 1994, funds were given to Glendale School for a children's garden. In 2001, a donation of grow-lights added to their learning experiences. The garden remains today and was featured in the 2002 Garden & Artist Tour.

Tussie-mussies, created by Viola Saunders and Mary Adams, fill the air with herbal fragrance at the Bedford Historical Society's Civil War Re-enactment



The Club has served the Bedford Historical Society in many ways. Since 1969, Garden Club members have been decorating the Historical Museum, Dunham House and the train depot for Christmas and Spring open houses. The Herb Garden, designed in 1972, leads the list of services. (More on the garden later.) On a cold November day, two hundred red, white, and blue hyacinth bulbs were planted on the Museum grounds for the nation's Bicentennial in 1976 by Viola Saunders, Walter Robeson, and Barbara

McDaniel. The Club worked at beautifying the Museum grounds, making and demonstrating "tussie-mussies" (a tightly gathered, hand-held bouquet of fragrant herbs and flowers) for distribution at the Civil War Days, donating flowers for the Strawberry Festival, and helping whenever needed.



## *Environmental Issues*

The Bedford Garden Club, a strong supporter of environmental issues, has been dedicated to preserving trees in Bedford. As early as 1934, the Club formed a committee to identify and catalog important trees in the area. Again in 1987, the Bedford Commons project, headed by Bertine Southworth continued this endeavor of identifying trees with aluminum markers. A tree guide was published naming the trees on the square and in the cemetery. This was a 60th Anniversary project for the Club that year.

In December, 1954, a letter written to Governor Lausche protested construction of Ohio Turnpike Exit 2 passing through Hinckley Reservation. The governor wrote back saying he "would take it into consideration." A May, 1961, notation asked members to write Governor DiSalle indicating

their objections to building Route Eight through Virginia Kendall Park. The route was relocated to the east of the park. In March, 1963, the Club tackled the "light company" and its policy of topping trees. President Mrs. Howard Wood and Mrs. Pat DeWitz met with an official of Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company at lunch and extracted a promise to cooperate on shaping and trimming trees cut through by power lines.

Through the Club's efforts, Bedford was declared a Bird Sanctuary in July 1964 by the National Audubon Society. The City established Ordinance 2821-64 making it official. The Club voiced its disapproval to the Ohio Legislature of placing quail on the state's hunting list. This organization over the years managed to find time to put down its trowels and rakes and take up worthwhile causes.

## *The Herb Garden*

Since the Club's founding growing herbs has always been of interest to the group. One of the original members, Helen Civileto, owned an herb farm on Richmond Road. This farm was the first licensed herb nursery in Ohio. It is not surprising that this interest provided the groundwork for what was to come.

The Herb Garden, dearest to the hearts of this generation's members, took seed as an idea in 1960. However, it was not until 1972 that the dream became a reality. The Bedford Historical Society asked the Garden Club



Displaying antique gardening equipment from the Bedford Museum are Bedford Garden Club members (from left) Walter Robeson, Mrs. Arlene Fuhrmeyer, Mrs. Viola Saunders and Mrs. Helen Telsrow. Note the vintage mechanism of the grass mower in the foreground. The shovel at the right is made of wood.

## *Herb garden will grow on historic Bedford plot*

With the observance of America's 200th birthday just four years away, civic groups in historically-rich Bedford are laying plans for that city's part in the celebration. The Bedford Garden Club is completing detailed sketches of a proposed herb garden, to be located behind the city museum on public square.

The museum building once was the town hall. The garden will be planted where the stables, housing city officials' horses, once stood.

Project coordinator, Mrs. Helen Telsrow, said the garden will cover 200 square feet. The 35-member club hopes to have an historically accurate representation of gardens commonly grown by housewives in the area 200 years ago.

According to Mrs. Telsrow, it will take about two years for the garden to become established.

It then will be included in museum tours conducted every Wednesday for area school children.

Still needed for the project are articles to provide an historic atmosphere in the garden. The club hopes to locate a vintage millstone on which to mount a sundial as a centerpiece. Also needed are railroad ties and a yard water pump.

Excerpt from the Bedford Times Register, 1972

to plant a garden befitting an historical building, something for the public to enjoy on the grounds of the Historical Museum. The Club chose to do an Herb Garden. Chairwoman, Mrs. Helen Telzrow went to the drawing board and came up with the design. David Telzrow and Wilbur Bright staked the area. Mr. Roseman's Boy Scout Troop trimmed and cleaned up the debris. With the cooperation of City Manager William Schuchart and City Landscaper, Mike Bucur, railroad ties were laid and beds filled with the proper soil mixture. During this time another committee worked on the surrounding area to make it presentable. Carr Brothers donated gravel; Koltcz Concrete Block Company, sand and edging blocks; Frank Washko, old bricks and a large flint millstone; Barbara McDaniel, a small millstone; and Ruth Miller, a sundial in memory of her sister, Catherine Chaffee. The sundial, vandalized in 1996, was later found along the railroad tracks

with its bronze marker missing. (The dial, engraved "in memory of Catherine Chaffee," is stored in the Bedford Historical Museum, awaiting return to the garden.) Miss Chaffee was an herb fancier who studied and raised herbs for many years as a hobby. Mrs. Catherine Burlage offered her greenhouse to germinate seeds for a variety of herbs.



## The Herb Garden

The traditional design layout included four sections: a gold, culinary, fragrant, and white garden, much like an herb garden of old when drug-stores did not frequent every corner. It was planned to incorporate colors, scents, cooking and medicinal herbs, all aesthetically pleasing. One could enter the garden where the eye would be greeted with rose and white mallow, blue Russian sage and rue, purple lavender, yellow yarrow, pink fairy roses, magenta monarda, chartreuse lady's mantle, white feverfew, silver-gray lambs-ears and artemisia. Visitors could experience scents of soft lavender, spicy scented-leaf geraniums, pungent oregano or delicate pineapple sage permeating the air with their fragrances. Rosemary, tarragon, lemon or caraway thyme, fennel, clary sage (eye-bright), comfrey and lovage added visual, as well as aromatic textures. In total, sixty five different types of herbs and four special shrubs filled the garden design. Herbs for the Club's Fall sale were harvested from this area. Thyme for the savory herb mustard, chive blossoms and tarragon to flavor the vinegars, sage and lovage dried for cuisine, and crafts from natural foliage

were chosen for favored items.

During the same period long time member Bertine Southworth donated funds for the large stone patio adjacent to the garden. Benches for the patio were purchased by the Club in 1966. After the retaining wall (also financed by the Club) was built at the south end of the property, a shade garden was planted with nine different varieties of hostas, including Wide Brim, Blue Umbrella, Sum & Substance, and Frances Williams. Ferns and helebore completed the planting. At the west end of the garden, yellow iris, daylilies, dianthus and baptisia, added brilliance to the seasons.

In August, 1975, Helen Telzrow passed away. A memorial fund was established in her name to perpetuate the Herb Garden. A stone obelisk installed by Sal Fusco in 1999, replaced the sundial stolen in 1996. In 1985, John Piazza and Jack Wardley laid brick paths. The Herb Garden is recorded in the National Herb Garden Registry.

In 2001, the Herb Garden was dismantled in preparation of the new addition to the Historical Museum. Sal Fusco holds the obelisk in storage until the old garden is replaced. Members removed the brick walkways and stored the bricks. Important plants were removed to members' gardens until they could be replanted. The Club submitted recommendations to reconfigure the garden with raised beds so that handicapped visitors will have access to the fragrance and beauty. Installation of the new garden is to take place after the Historical Museum construction is completed.

## *Spring Plants And Fall Herbs*

The Spring Plant Sale evolved from a member plant exchange. It became a means to raise funds for a nearly empty treasury, as well as fulfill a commitment to the by-laws, "offering opportunities to buy flowers, shrubs and trees at reduced prices through club orders." Plant sales have been held since 1939. The early sales were held on the front lawn of the Bedford City Hall on Broadway. This was the former Garlick house, and today the lawn still exists as the Veterans Memorial Park. In 1973, the sale was held on the grounds of the Historical Museum. Through the years this event was held in many places until it found a home at Telzrows'.



Plant Sale Chairperson, JoAnnam  
Telzrow readies for the big day!



### FLOWER LADY

Agnes Yorkievtz, of Lincoln Boulevard in Bedford, displays a spring blooming flower called Solomon seal, an uncommon plant. In the foreground are blooming irises. Yorkievtz, 86, a member of the Bedford Garden Club, is well-versed in flowers and plants. She prizes her day lilies the most. In the far background is a Harrison's yellow rose of Texas. Yorkievtz said the history of the rose bush is female pioneers, traveling West in covered wagons, planted it throughout America in memory of their mothers.

SUN PHOTO BY KEN BAKA

Reprinted courtesy of the Bedford Sun Banner

Today, the sale is a much anticipated event, and the major fund raiser for the Club. Hundreds of plants are sold, including more than forty-five different varieties of perennials, annuals, herbs, shrubs, and occasionally trees. Jo-Anna Telzrow has coordinated the sale for over fourteen years. Funds from the sale go toward the support of community projects and provide educational programs.

One of the most generous plant donors to the Spring Sale is Agnes Yorkievtz,

who holds the record for longevity of membership. She was nominated for membership in October 1948. Known for her prize-winning iris and daylilies, she has enhanced the gardens of many members with plant sharings. Agnes recalls a flower show where members brought flower entries in pop bottles to swap or sell. She won first prize - a ladies garden shovel (which she still has today) for taking the most specimens to the show.

Another fund raiser, now a tradition, is the Fall Herb & Craft Sale. By the 1980's, the sale became well established with members meeting to prepare dried herbs from their gardens, nature crafts, and mustard. The

Agnes Yorkevtz, Ruth Broght, Mary Adams and Mae Dvorak begin mustard preparations, Fall of 1970



mustard recipe had its origins in a Western Reserve Herb Society Cookbook. Forty-five year member, Viola Saunders, tweaked and tested until she created just the right herb combination for the mustard made today. Funds from this famous herb mustard were used to purchase a flowering Bradford pear tree for the Herb Garden, in memory of Ann Albrecht.

## *Educating The Public*

Horticulture education was and still is important to the Bedford Garden Club. In 1938, the Club purchased books on various gardening topics for the Bedford Public Library. The Library then was on the second floor of Bedford High School located at Columbus and Washington Street. In 1940, a club speaker spoke on Hydroponics years before the first commercial application of the process.

In 1953, one hundred twenty-five people attended a flower-arranging demonstration by Nela Florist at the Bedford High School gym. At that time Nela Florist was Cleveland's premier floral designer. Irene Jones presented a unique demonstration and raffled off one arrangement. People eagerly purchased the remaining samples at cost.

Speakers came from all over northeast Ohio, as well as New York state. Garden Club editor of *Popular Gardening* magazine, author, and lecturer, Dorothy Biddle of Pleasantville, New York spoke to a group of 225 people at Bedford High School in November, 1957. Her topic was "Gateway To Christmas."

Our resident apiarist, Walter Robeson, much loved and appreciated, was both an enthusiastic member and lecturer. His talks on bees and honey delighted Garden Club and Central Elementary School children.

An individual holding the most requested speaker status, was Bedford's own, Warren C. Miller. Mr. Miller, another active Garden Club member, was named principal of Bedford High School in 1927. As a devoted educator, highly respected entomologist, gardener, musician and poet, he could give a talk at a moment's notice. He would step to the podium without hesitation, when the scheduled speaker canceled at the last minute.

In the 1980's, the "Vern & Vi Show" became an educational road-show. Vern Cooper took photos of flower specimens, member gardens, city plantings and historic places. A slide presentation was assembled with Vi Saunders providing the narration. Subject matter ranged from horticulture to homesites, offering an interesting, economical program to a variety of organizations, in and out of Cuyahoga County.

Today programs on plant propagation, care and feeding of perennials, soil conditioning, landscaping and more are offered by speakers, expert in their field, at the monthly meetings. These meetings are open to the public. To insure the continuation of these programs, our benefactor,

the late Bertine Southworth, left a handsome endowment to the Bedford Garden Club to perpetuate its goals and ideals into the future.

## *Flower Shows And Garden Tours*

For over thirty years Bedford Garden Club held plant and flower shows, the first, in 1929. Another mention of a show is in 1938, when Garden Club Members exhibited at the Bedford Grange Fair, held at the Town Hall. These shows had many categories centered around a theme such as: Outdoor Living, American Heritage, Fashions In Flowers, The Rainbow, or Waltz Of The Flowers, where song titles were used for each arrangement classification.

In June of 1941, "flower arrangements were exhibited on Miss Sabiston's porch. (Former neighbors of this Harriman Avenue home remember people coming from all over the county to view the beautiful gardens here.) Six classes were offered for competition. Mrs. Telzrow (of Bedford) and Mrs. Hendershott of Brecksville judged the arrangements. Points of perfection were: Quality, Suitability of container, Color Harmony, Originality, Proportion and Balance, and Design. . . . . Respectfully submitted, Marion Wyckoff." In the 40's, vegetables were the highlight of the shows.

Later locations for exhibitions were wherever a large space became available, such as the YMCA on Tarbell, the Methodist Church, Ellenwood School. Nine hundred tickets were sold for the 1956 Flower Show, co-sponsored by the Kiwanis and the Bedford Garden Club. Seventy floral arrangements and 400 specimens were on display. In 1958, the show continued to be well attended. This success motivated the move to Taylor's department store at Southgate, then the brand new shopping center in Maple Heights. Mr. Brenner, Manager of Taylor's said, "the show was a credit to the store." He asked to have the flower show next year, promising additional space.

A new trophy was donated by Mr. D.P. Handyside in September, 1959, as a perpetual trophy in memory of his wife, Edna. It is presumed that it was returned to be given to the next year's winner. (The location of the trophy at this writing has not been found!)

No expense was spared to market these shows. In May, 1955, members voted to purchase orchids to be distributed to the first 500 ladies attending the September show. In 1956, one thousand were ordered. This was discontinued when it became cost prohibitive.

One of the last really big flower shows was in 1964, held in the present City Hall in Council Chambers. Mrs. Beverly Neligh served as president that year. One more small flower exhibit, held at the Library on Center Road, September 1974, was the last held. Bedford Friends of the Library made and served refreshments. The Library patrons (visitors) voted on

the flowers, fruits, and vegetables that were shown. This show was not professionally set up and judged, however, a lot of fun for members.

## *Garden of the Week* Bedford Times Register, July 29, 2000



Making good use of a small space, Dave and Lisa Sweeney on Tarbell Avenue have filled their rock garden with dianthus, lobelia, rosyglow barberry and hostas, just to name a few.

Recognizing the curb appeal of this Garden of the Week, Bedford Garden Club salutes the family and their contribution to beautifying the neighborhood.

Are you a novice gardener or one with the wisdom of many years experience? In either case, you are invited to share your knowledge or learn new information with fellow gardeners on the third Thursday of the month at Bedford City Hall. For more information and a program brochure, phone Viola Saunders at (4

The Garden-Of-The-Week program introduced in 2000, is another way members and local residents can show-off unusual plant specimens, or unique garden designs. The intention of the program is to showcase and give recognition to gardeners in the area. Dot Schwende and Vicki McSherry did the photography the first year. Since 2001, Paul Reynolds with wife Sandy photograph and write the descriptions for the newspaper. Beautifying the community benefits all residents. No prizes are awarded.

Garden tours, a favorite activity, began as visits, formal and informal, to members' gardens. Mrs. Wyckoff, club secretary, writes of a garden tour with a charming sense of humor. An addendum to the minutes of October 1942, reads: "In reporting the Tour thru Hagerty's Jungle, the Secretary neglected to mention the Guide who was responsible for this very pleasant expedition. The Secretary now reports: The Guide was a tall, well proportioned and tanned gentleman. He was intimately familiar with every inch of trail in his own jungle; having transformed it, with timeless indifference, from clay and more clay, cinders and general neighborhood debris to a region of spectacular display. He has also advanced the progress of many amateur explorers in miniature jungles of their own and has helped eliminate the hazards of savage insects and plant diseases. He is a deft guide and a conscientious worker. He is a member of the Bedford Garden Tribes and is known, generally, as Lloyd Hagerty."

August, 1958, found members visiting the gardens of Mr. and Mrs. R. Sedlon, on Broadway Avenue (Hezekiah Dunham house) at 2 p.m.; Mr. & Mrs. F. H. Dalrymple on North Street at 3 p.m.; Mr. & Mrs. E. Woznicki

on Leyton Avenue at 3:30 p.m., and Mr. & Mrs. N. Kozopas on Eldred Avenue at 4 p.m. No time for lingering here!

Later in 1976, the Bicentennial House & Garden Tour raised funds to donate to the development of Archibald Willard Park adjacent to Ellenwood Center. In 2002, the idea has taken on a new twist. Celebrating the 75th Anniversary, a Garden & Artists Tour opened the perennial gardens of Frank Kubat, Jean and Harry Jorgensen, Jane & Joseph Backo, Lee & Don Flagg, Viola & Dan Saunders, JoAnna Telzrow, Barbara & Chuck Palumbo, Don Littlefield and Mike King, and the Glendale School garden for public viewing. Artists Tom Ramsay, Ernie & Sally Horvath, Cathy Mazur, Rick Backo, Deborah Mikulski and Pete Dickson exhibited their work in clay sculpture, woodcarving, pottery and watercolor painting at selected sites.

Although the day was filled with liquid sunshine, it was a very enjoyable event. "The gardens were so beautiful. . . the hostesses were so friendly. . . I learned a lot. . . I now have ideas for my own garden. . . it was such a pleasant day," were just a few of the comments reported to the planning committee.



Mary Lou Collins enjoys the fragrances of Zephrine Drouhine, a rose variety dating back to 1868, found in the Jorgensen's gardens during the *Garden & Artist Tour*.

Tours to public gardens took place outside the township as well. In 1941, tickets to the Cleveland Garden Center Flower Show (now known as the Cleveland Botanical Gardens) were offered to members for 40 cents. Today the bargain price of advance sale tickets is \$10, (\$18 at the door!). Kingwood Center, the estate of Charles Kelly King in Mansfield, appears to be the most visited place as related in early documents. (Vi Saunders remembers picnic hampers packed full of food and being allowed to spread blankets on the grounds of the Center for an afternoon repast.)

Members recall a visit to Gardenview in Strongsville, with its unusual plantings and peacocks roaming about; or, Falconskeape, "a paradise of every known lilac," in Medina. Rain did not dampen the enjoyment of this trip. Rather, it seemed to bring out the fragrances, delighting all attending. (We were so fortunate to have travel chairman, Mary Adam arrange this trip for us. Shortly after

our trip, this incredible garden was sold to the Ross Family to become a private estate and closed to the public.)

Both Lois Alexander and Mary Adam remember a beautiful day in May seeing the spectacular daffodils at Lake View Cemetery, followed by a very pleasant lunch at the University Inn. Other trips including a tour of a glass works, and an interesting trip to Cleveland's Detroit High Level Bridge and Cleveland's subway system add to their memories. Alice Weisenbach recalls joint trips with the Valley View Garden Club to places such as Oglebay Park in West Virginia.

Other memorable trips were to the rose collection at Fellows Riverside Gardens in Youngstown; a Fall tour to Paschke's Mum Farm in Presque Isle, New York; Schoepfle Gardens in Lorain, with a stop for lunch at the Huron Yacht Club; and Schedel Arboretum, southeast of Toledo.

## *Picnics, Parties And Potlucks*

Garden Clubbers love parties - potluck dinners, picnics, porch teas, Christmas parties - we are there! Research done by Viola Saunders indicates that one of the first picnic places selected was Twin Lakes. "It rained so hard, that the picnic had to be moved to the refreshment room of the Bedford Glens." Mr. Ed Day offered the Bedford Glens to the Club for the 1937 President's Ball. Seventy percent of the proceeds went to the P.T.A. Children's Clinic and Bedford Hospital.

In 1940, Look-About-Lodge in Chagrin Reservation was a location of many potluck-picnics to come, thanks to individuals in the Club who were also members of the Cleveland Natural Science Club. At that time, the building was restricted to members only. The wading pool off the Egbert Road entrance to Metropolitan Park was a favored place in 1943, and continued to be for many years. "It was a beautiful evening and plenty of food, in spite of rationing," a guest commented. Another picnic site was Hillandale, the country home of Mr. & Mrs. Sterling Prestage of Richmond Road. Even picnics were a learning experience. Vi Saunders reminisces about a picnic/nature walk at Bedford Glens. "For the first time in my life I saw a fragrant,



Barbara Palimbo chooses a delectable morsel at the August Potluck.

Lois Alexander and Marge Comisky wait their turn.



2001 Board Members: Barbara McDaniel, Linda Holmberg, Connie Choi, Barbara Palumbo, Edna Franz, Geneva Sheppard, JoAnna Telzrow, Viola Saunders, Sandy Reynolds, Pete Dickson, Lois Alexander, Mary Adam & Mary Lou Collins accept affirmaiton while Joyce Daunch takes the picture at the annual Christmas party

trailing arbutus, a coveted wildflower rarely seen in Ohio.”

Arlene Fuhrmeyer was in charge of picnics in the 50's. The menu was always the same: meat loaf, baked beans, potato salad, jello salad, and cake. Arlene always brought a bowl of pickled beets. Unless you died on the way, woe to the person who forgot his or her assigned dish.

In recent years a picnic held at Archibald Willard Park, nearly ended in disaster. A nasty attack by yellow-jackets sent a member to the emergency room of Bedford Hospital. She survived. However, this was the impetus to move back to Look-About-Lodge (now owned by the Cleveland Metroparks), even though the hospitality committee had to come three days early to clean the bathrooms and kitchen. The picnic was held in the screened-in porch of the lodge, away from bombarding insects!

Christmas parties were always enjoyed by the Garden Club. Often held in member's homes, they ranged from simple cookies and punch to more elaborate affairs. Twenty-five cent gift exchanges and parlor games made for a congenial evening. The best cooks in the world belong to the Bedford Garden Club, and attendance at potlucks prove it. Since the early 1990's, member Andy Kaczur, our local butcher, has custom smoked a ham for the Club Christmas Party. Leftovers from Andy's ham are a coveted prize in the Christmas gift raffle following dinner.

Speaking of parties, the hospitality team of Marge Comisky and Lois Alexander can not go without mention. Since 1985, they have set a beautiful table for our monthly meetings. Marge, color coordinates table cloths and napkins centered on a theme, precisely setting each tray of desserts in place. Lois creates floral centerpieces that delight the senses. In her spare time, Lois designed covers for our annual program booklets. (See

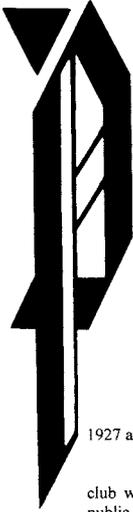


examples of her work above.) The countless hours she spent making favors for the annual Christmas parties, and summer potluck dinners, made each event special.

## *Celebrations In 2002*

The celebrations continue. In March, Mayor Dan Pocek presented the Club with an official proclamation by the City Of Bedford recognizing 75 years of service to the Community.

At the Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast/Bedford School District Art Show, the Club awarded cash prizes and/or gift certificates to four students. Senior High art classes submitted entries limited to a flower still life done in a medium of the student's choice. Additionally, the flower was to be identified by both its Latin and common names, with information about where the flower is grown and why the student selected it to be the subject of his or her work. This project was a first for the Club.



THE CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO

Office of the Mayor

# Proclamation



**W**hereas: the **Bedford Garden Club** was founded in the spring of 1927 and is celebrating its **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**, and

**WHEREAS**, the **Bedford Garden Club** stated in its Constitution that the purpose of the club was to promote the improvement of streets, public parks and private grounds by creating public sentiment for the preservation of trees and the elimination of weeds and unsightly rubbish, and by assisting members in the solution of their garden problems, providing speakers at meetings, and offering opportunities to buy flowers, shrubs and trees at reduced prices through club orders, and

**WHEREAS**, the **Bedford Garden Club** proposed and adopted the Azalea Mum as the Town Flower; held the first Flower Show in Bedford in 1929; planted on the Town Square and Bedford Hospital; planted crabapple and dogwood trees in the Metro Park; planted crabapple trees in Bedford Cemetery; did plantings around the City throughout the years; raised and donated funds for various programs along with a host of other projects over the 75 years, and

**WHEREAS**, our entire community has benefited from the **Bedford Garden Club** through their many projects and we gratefully acknowledge the influence of good fellowship and good deeds that the **Bedford Garden Club** has given our community and it is a pleasure to extend this expression of our esteem and best wishes to the members on the memorable occasion of this **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Daniel S. Pock, Mayor of the City of Bedford, on behalf of the City Council, Administration and all the Citizens of Bedford extend sincere congratulations on this happy occasion to the **Bedford Garden Club**.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I do hereby set my hand and cause the Seal of the City of Bedford to be affixed hereto this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 2002.



  
Mayor Daniel S. Pock



City Service Director Clint Bellar assists Miss Liptak's first grade class from St. Mary's School with the Club's Arbor Day Tree Planting.



President Joyce Daunch starts the first shovel of dirt for the April 2002 Arbor Day Tree Planting in the Veteran's section of Bedford Cemetery, while Ethel Bucur looks on. Garden Club members and city officials observe from the background.

the City, two stone plaques. One plaque commemorates the Club's 75th Anniversary and the second honors Mike Bucur, arborist and friend of the Bedford Garden Club.

Bringing their own chinaware tea cups, club members attended a catered Victorian Garden Tea, April, 2002, celebrating the Club's Diamond Jubilee. Greeters, Ruth Falasco, Viola Saunders, Mary Lou Collins, Barbara McDaniel, and Joyce Daunch seated guests in the Orchid Room of Petitti



A menu that delights the eye and palate at the Victorian Tea.

Ruth Falasco and Viola Saunders greet guests at the Victorian Tea.



Garden Center in Strongsville. Trays of eight different types of delicately fashioned tea sandwiches delighted all, together with open-faced canapes, pinwheels of smoked turkey wrapped in California cracker bread, kabobs of brie cheese with fresh fruit, sumptuous jewel-like desserts of pecan tarts, chocolate covered strawberries, macaroons, bonbons, fruited cheesecakes and much more.

An antique brooch fastened with ribbons graced each table. The person who sat by the brooch was chosen as the table hostess. Two types of English teas were served from heirloom teapots by hostesses: Paula Slimak, Mary Lou Collins, Theresa Roberts, Deborah Adam-Duff, Sharon Kross, Geneva Sheppard, Linda Holmberg and Marianne Bican.

The Garden & Artist Tour in June, a first of its kind for the Club, invited local restaurants to offer a Bedford Garden Club Special on the day of the tour. A number of proprietors were pleased to participate.

In Bedford's Fourth of July Parade, all Garden Club past presidents were invited to participate. Mary Adam, Mae Dvorak, Linda Holmberg, Betty Hendricks, Viola Saunders, and current president Joyce Danch rode vintage cars. Ruth Falasco observed. A 1929 Ford truck filled with colorful flowers, shrubs, trees and draped with newly purchased banners was driven by John Romano to lead the entourage. On this very hot and sunny day, models from the past to the present: Scot Isquick's 1919 Rolls Royce touring car, Tom Campbell's 1930 Model-A Ford, Fred Wolbert's 1954 Mercury Monterey, Wally Hutson's 1960 Chrysler Crown Imperial, and Marulyn Nenadal's 2002 Mazda MX-5 Miata made it to the destination in Bedford Heights (albeit an occasional push to some of the vehicles by parade watchers helped.) Mary Lou Collins made sure each car was decorated with azaleamum balloons and every president carried a bouquet of flowers.

After a fifteen year hiatus, Kingwood Center, a favorite site to visit

for many years, was revisited on a July Bus Tour. The trip began with a stop at Secret Arboretum to see water lilies, massive hydrangea bushes, bottlebrush buckeye, and clematis growing up various shrubs. A family style lunch at the Amish Door Restaurant preceded arrival at the Kingwood Estate. Here, our guide took us on a



John Romano and his 1929 Ford Truck, bedecked with flowers lead the Club's entry of six classic vehicles in the 2002 Fourth of July Parade.



Past Presidents, Mae Dvorak and Mary Adams made a "royal" addition to the 4th of July Parade. Scott Isquick looks on.

tour of formal gardens, ending at the spectacular daylily collection. A surprise visit to Grandpa's Cheese Barn on the way home was enjoyed by all.

The chirping of cicadas announcing the temperature of the day, the screech of a Red-shouldered hawk, a rare chestnut tree, and a hundred year-old maple tree were some of the

sights and sounds enjoyed by members in August. The nature walk led by our favorite naturalist, Wendy Weirich, followed by a breakfast buffet at Look-About-Lodge, offered something for everyone in this year's celebrations. Not eager to leave the pleasant surroundings, Pete Dickson played his harmonica, while all joined Don Flagg in a sing-along.

The culminating event, a gala dinner held at St. Eugene's party center, is happening in September 2002. At this writing, the Jubilee Committee is busy making plans for this very special evening. This booklet was prepared especially for the event.

The month long display at Bedford Library pictorially telling the Club history, the specially designed tee-shirts with the Azaleum (Bedford's town flower) printed on it, and badges created by Tom Ramsay, add to the lasting memories of this festive year. The flower meaning of the chrysanthemum is "light of hope in times of darkness." It seems appropriate during the current times.

Today the Club remains committed to the goals and ideals established in 1927. The generosity of the many members over the past years is evident throughout Bedford and beyond.



Michael Sawastuk, JoAnna Telzrow, Ardele Smith, Theresa Roberts, Edna Franz, Dan Saunders and Linda Holmberg listen intently to Naturalist Wendy Weirich at the August Nature Walk & Breakfast

Friendships, sharing of plants and information, and satisfaction of community service are the rewards savored by each and every member of the Bedford Garden Club.

## ***The Bedford Garden Club - 75 years and still growing!***

---

Of the many poems that were read to begin a meeting, this one was selected from the archives to share in this Diamond Jubilee Year.

BECAUSE.....

Because I have seen the flowers,

I know what color is.....

what fragrance is...

what beauty is.....

Because I have seen the springtime's  
divine awakening,

I know what hope is.....

what faith is....

what joy is.....

Because I have seen the eagle soar  
and the tall pines swaying in the  
breeze,

I know what grace is.....

Because I have listened to the  
birds carol at daybreak,

I know what gladness is.....

what thanksgiving is...

Because I have seen the seeds

reveal their wonders in radiant life,

I know what mystery is.....

Because I have looked upon the  
mountain, the ocean, and the trees,

I know what majesty is.....

what grandeur is.....

what poise is.....

Because I have seen the sun,  
the moon, and the stars in their  
ponderous courses,

I know what power is.....

Contemplation of these revelations  
Mounts faith almost to understanding.

*Our sincere thanks*

*to the unknown author.*

# *Epilogue*

The challenge in writing a narrative such as this is the potential omission of names of so many people: program chairpersons who schedule all the informative, entertaining, or inspiring speakers; the workers who planted, weeded, pruned the Herb Garden, Babyland, Bedford Square, as well as other areas. All the members who baked, telephoned, kept records, pitched in when needed. No matter how large or small the task, everyone gives something to the betterment of the Club. Even though your name may not have been mentioned, know that what you do is important and appreciated.

## **FORMER PRESIDENTS THE BEDFORD GARDEN CLUB 1927 TO 2002**

1927-28	Mr. E.R. Scovil	1959-60	Mr. George Rudd
1929	Mr. Clyde Steele	1961-62	Mrs. Patricia DeWitz
1930-31	Miss Estelle Maxseiner	1963	Mrs. Rosemary Wood
1932	Mr. Ralph Brown	1964	Mrs. Beverly Neligh
1933-34	Mr. Lloyd Hagerty	1965	Mrs. Viola Saunders
1935-36	Mrs. E.C. Ritchie	1966	Mr. Henry Bollon
1937	Mrs. Ralph Bell	1967-68	Mrs. Betty Hendricks
1938-39	Mr. Robert Scott	1969-70	Mrs. Ruth Bright
1940-41	Miss E. Edgar	1971-73	Miss Frances Kaminsky
1942	Mr. D. Titterington	1974-75	Mrs. Theresa Waltonen
1943	Mr. L. Gremillion	1976-77	Miss Evelyn Tittl
1944-45	Mrs. Arlene Fuhrmeyer	1978	Mrs. Viola Saunders
1946	Miss Eunice Nichols	1979-83	Miss Evelyn Tittl
1947	Mrs. Lucy Warren	1984-87	Mrs. Viola Saunders
1948	Mrs. Fay Hott	1988-89	Mrs. Janet Reed
1949	Mrs. Helen Telzrow	1990-91	Mrs. Mary Adam
1950	Mrs. Arlene Fuhrmeyer	1992-93	Mrs. Linda Holmberg
1951	Mrs. L. Gremillion	1994-95	Mrs. Mae Dvorak
1952-53	Mr. Paul Holcomb	1996-98	Mrs. Ruth Falasco
1954-55	Mrs. Marie Hutchinson	1999-02	Mrs. Joyce Daunch
1956-58	Mr. Nicholas Kozopas		

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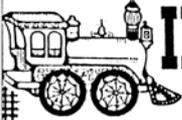
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President*

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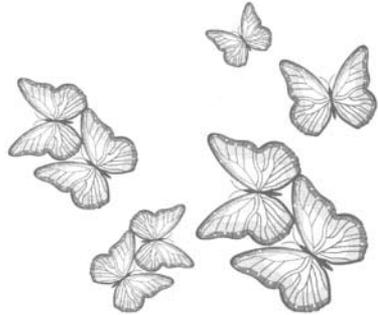
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