

GARDEN CLUB HISTORY

The following notes of early years were taken from minutes and other documents in the library archives. More recent notes come from other sources or the historian's memory.

1928 First meeting 6/26/1928 at the Storey House on Trapelo Road (#80). The women all wore hats and white gloves and went by their married names (e.g. Mrs. Edwin Doe). All meetings in early years were held at members' houses.

In the Articles of Association for the Club the purposes were listed as:

- Education of the public and promotion of public interest in conservation, preservation, beautification
- Maintenance and improvement of community landmarks and parks

1930 Had 48 members. Dues were \$3.

1931 Participated (mostly flower judging) in the Grange's Lincoln Fair and Exhibition at Bemis Hall

1932 Club drew up plans to landscape grounds around the old Scout House which was previously the RR station and now where Station Park is.

A Club member was elected to serve on a local committee to care for the unemployed in Lincoln.

3 gardens in town were opened for the benefit of the Mass. Soc. for Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

The Club had a float in the July 4th parade.

Sent a basket of flowers each week in summer to the Fruit and Flower Mission of Boston

Although there are various accounts of the Flower Mission's origins in the United States, more than one source claims it began in 1869 in Boston, "the inspiration of Miss Helen W. Tinkham," a young teacher, who had the idea "[t]hat the myriads of flowers that bloom and fade in many a suburban garden might be a source of untold pleasure, not only to the invalid shut in close, crowded rooms of the poorer portion of the great city, but also to the sewing girls in the large establishments, and many others who almost never see the country, but are obliged to toil from morn until the set of the sun."² To put the plan into action, announcements were made "in several places of worship in Boston, inviting all having fruits and flowers to send them . . . to a place named." The plea was so successful that 150 flowers or small bouquets were given out in the first distribution; by 1872, the Boston mission was dispensing twelve thousand (12,000) donations in a season ("A Flower Mission"), and in 1888 three hundred flowers/bouquets were delivered each mission day between May and October (In some cases, missions distributed fruit as well as flowers. (From the internet)

1934 Began providing flowers at the library but only during the outdoor flower blooming season. First mention of a plant sale.

1935-36 Gave money to the schools to reward children for the highest number of tent caterpillar nests destroyed and also gave to the state for prevention of Dutch elm disease

1936 Had 65 members and many committees:

Perennials	Annuals
Bulbs	Roses
Rock plants	Wild flowers
Pools	Trees and shrubs
Bulbs	House plants
Civic improvements	

1940 Lincoln gardens provided food (canned goods) to the parents of the British children who were staying with families here. The LGC was very much involved.

1943 Early emphasis was on flower arranging. At a regular Sept. meeting there were 56 flower exhibits (some may have been for horticulture). However Club also sponsored 23 children in 4H Club events and sent money to the Red Cross.

Meetings began at 3 pm after which tea was served. The Club had a long waiting list for membership. At some point it had instituted a limit of 70 active members and new members had to be sponsored.

WW II activities:

- Money to the Red Cross
- Gifts for wounded soldiers
- Flowers to Waltham Hosp. and other places, Easter gifts to Ft. Devens.
- Wreaths for Memorial Day
- Co-sponsored an event to promote victory gardens.

1945 Prizes were given for members' arrangements at meetings.

1950-51

Decorating the watering trough at the 5 corners had begun

1952-3

Decorated at hospitals at Christmas time and took arrangements there every month, including Storrow House (now the Carroll School) which was then used for convalescing MGH patients.

Had a Christmas tea at deCordova, 2 flower shows. Often had shows at deCordova.

1965

Many different committees, e.g.

- DeCordova garden
- Ice Pond trail
- Litterbug
- Fruit & Flower Mission
- Plant sale to benefit landscaping at Old Town Hall.

1968-9 Planting, cleanup and maintenance work done at Drumlin.

1970 Still going to Bedford Vet. Hospital and doing plantings at Storrow House. Also provided "therapy plants/flowers" for the latter.

Distributed 48 individual packets of bulbs and planters to nursing homes in Lincoln, Concord and Carlisle, then voted to limit distribution to Lincoln only. Apparently the forerunner of Mission for Cheer.

1970's Dates unclear, but members of the club dressed up in fancy tea attire and made home visits to older members who might not be able to make it to meetings.

1974-5 Had two litter control (i.e. roadside litter pickup) days during the year. Placed flowers at Bethany, home for retired Episcopal nuns located where The Commons is now.

First mention of Mission for Cheer. Had 8 meetings and 7 horticulture meetings during the year!

1977 Mission for Cheer delivered bulbs to individuals. Sometimes used former Donaldson barn on Weston Rd for preparing packets.

1978 50th Anniversary year and big celebration at Codman House, including Flower show
Tent in which elegant luncheon was served
Sherry party in the house for SPNEA [now Historic New England] people and select Lincoln individuals.

Subsequently SPNEA, with the leadership of club member Joanne Armstrong and her husband John, raised sufficient funds to renovate the Carriage House.

See Harding-Kennedy write-up in book *Lincoln by Lincoln* for further details.

Late 70's or early 80's – Gave a flower show at one of the houses in Minute Man Park, probably Hartwell Tavern

1980 Most meetings held in morning in various venues in town and in some private homes.

1981 Did some planting at former 3S Pharmacy building next to RR and across Lincoln Rd. from the main Post Office.

1982 Decorated Codman House at Christmas as a fund raiser for renovations to the Carriage House.

1995 Club members began caring for the turn-around tree off Bedford Rd. Area became a park after area residents formed an association (Bedford Road Roadside Path Association) and got Town Meeting approval to redesign the intersection of Bedford and Morningside. It became known as Morningside Park and is maintained by Club members and neighbors.

1993 or thereabouts First issue of Clippings.

1994 Spearheaded the development of an interpretive trail near Smith and Brooks schools. A 2.5 mile trail was built and a brochure printed that points out the many different habitats along the trail.

- 1998 Held a flower show "A Taste of the Garden" at Pierce House to raise money for landscaping the house's grounds.
- 2000 Cook book *A Taste of the Garden* with tested recipes from members published and sold.
- 2000? Changed bylaws to eliminate cap on membership and later to delete need for 2 sponsors.
- 2003 First Artists in Bloom at the Pierce House
- 2000's Purchased special trash cans and installed granite benches for Pierce Park with funds from 1998 show and bought (with financial help from Cambridge Trust and Barrett Real Estate) a wooden bench in 2007 and another can for Station Park. A granite bench had been installed there by DPW in 2005
- 2006 Elegant high tea given to raise money.
- 2000? Western cedar arbor installed at Station Park. Specially designed for the location and funded by the bequest of Pat Asaff who ran a flower store (Alpa Plants) at the mall for a number of years.
- 2007 1st town wide workshop – Stone wall building and repair.
Stone wall brochure created by Ellen Withrow and made available to residents. Subsequent workshops focused on pruning techniques
- 2009 LGC website commences
- 2009 Roadside study and report completed and distributed to great acclaim by town boards and departments, esp. DPW which uses it as a guide. Wins a merit award from Boston Soc. of Landscape Architects and one from Massachusetts Federation of Garden Clubs. GC had received a \$5,000 grant from Codman Trust to produce the report, a brochure and to put it on the website. Credit goes to Mary Helen Lorenz and Ken Bassett.

