

# Bermuda Run Garden Club celebrates 30th anniversary

Over the past 30 years the Bermuda Run Garden Club has earned a reputation for excellence and leadership in community service not only in Davie and Forsyth counties but across the nation.

A 12-time winner of the State Garden Club of the Year award and a national Shell Oil Environmental Awareness Award for starting the first recycling project in Davie County head the list. These contributions have been made possible by the work of many women who are and have been members of the club's 30-year history.

Founded in 1984 by the late Grace Maddrey along with charter members Ann Cornwell and Lois Price, the club continued to grow with monthly meetings and town projects. Programs planned were a variety of fun and work with visits to botanical, wildflower and herb gardens. Some projects were to benefit public parks while others were to beautify nearby areas. Workshops covered information and awareness of preparation for the first flower show. It was during this first year the club flower - violet - was chosen and member Katie Reidenbach presented then club president Ann Cornwell with an original water color rendering.

In 1987 a two-year landscaping project around the Bermuda Run Post Office began. By the end of the first year the club had grown to 30 members.

Much of the club's history is captured in award-winning garden club scrapbooks noting more than 50 new start-up community projects many of which are still in operation.

The club raises thousands of dollars each year by selling flowers and winning at the Dixie Classic Fair to support the causes they believe in - Hospice, Meals on Wheels, Lunch buddies, Pearls of Empowerment and Storehouse for Jesus to name a few.

The club hosted its 30th annual anniversary luncheon on Sept. 3 at the Bermuda

Run Country Club. In addition to the two chartered members, honored guests included former presidents of the club, NCGC District 4 Director Marge Silber and Town Councilman Ed Coley. The agenda for the meeting quizzed the members on club history with prizes awarded.

The highlight came when Coley presented a formal proclamation signed by Mayor Ken Rethmeier declaring Sept. 5 "in our great town as Bermuda Run Garden Club Day." The proclamation honored the garden club for 30 years of community service. Projects recognized by the town included trimming roses at Tanglewood Park, establishing a yard of the month program to inspire beautification, supplying horticulture to the Dixie Classic Fair for 29 years, State Garden Club of the Year awards, Blue Star Memorial sponsor, and hundreds of volunteer hours to local libraries and charities.

The proclamation recognized the organization as a "crown jewel" among local

service organizations providing visually and financially significant contributions to the greater community. Accepting the award was Club President Sue Whittaker.

"The Bermuda Run Garden Club is honored to accept such an award" she said. "We are proud of our history of service and we are committed to continue to give back to our community."

This past week the Garden Club donated and placed a floral planter by the entrance to the town hall for the community to enjoy.

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Bermuda Run Mayor Ken Rethmeier and Town Manager Lee Rollins accept a planter from Bermuda Run Garden Club members.



Past club presidents: Susan Royster, Ann Cornwell, Shelby Nichols, Kay Gleeson, Carol Quinn, Christy Schafer, Linda Ernst, Sue Lawrence, Donna Dutoit, Peggy Schuppert and Bonnie Rockaway.



Town Council member Ed Coley presents club president Sue Whittaker a proclamation declaring "Bermuda Run Garden Club Day."



Diana Goolsby is the winner of a floral arrangement designed by Bermuda Run Garden Club members Peggy Schuppert and Pat Mignacca.



Bermuda Run Garden Club members and honored guests stand behind award winning history scrapbooks that showcase 30 years of service.