

The Country Garden Club
1974 – 1983

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Meetings were held monthly September through June in member's homes. After the new Mount Laurel Library opened they began holding their meetings there. Only tea was served before the monthly meetings. The club also held executive meetings the first Tuesday of each month, from September through June and in 1977 the club revised their constitution.

During these years, membership ranged from 32 to 56 members, with 1 to 13 inactive members at a time. In 1977 Mrs. Elenda Weston was named the first "Member Emeritus" of the club. She was a Charter Member and served as Horticultural Chair from the beginning. From 1974 until 1978 dues were \$4.00 and inactive dues were \$3.00. In 1979 the dues were increased to \$5.00.

Club workshops were held at the Bank of West Jersey on Church Street, but when the club started holding their general meetings at the Library, workshops were then held at the Library too. Wreath making workshops were held in December at Ray's Garden Mart on Church Street which was owned by Hector and Elenda Weston. After a fire destroyed the Garden Mart wreath making was held at the Fellowship Fire House, and at the Colonial Rubber Warehouse, until they started using the Library.

Our members learned how to make flowers from sea shells, and from bread dough. Williamsburg arrangements, framed pressed flower wall hangings and miniature arrangements through the club's many workshops.

In May of 1977 the club sold home and garden tour tickets for \$2.00. There were judged intra club flower shows every spring and fall, with general meeting flower arranging workshops held before hand. In the spring of 1980 the club's flower show consisted of fresh and dried arrangements depicting various events, and in 1981 the show featured creative table arrangements. Both shows were open to the public at no charge and they were followed by a tea at the Mount Laurel Library.

The club's yearly events were the landscaping of trees and shrubs at various township schools along with the annual Arbor Day tree planting. The donation of gardening books and magazines to the library, and a fresh flower arrangement made by the members and placed at the circulation desk each week. April 1976 a \$300.00 scholarship was given to a graduating Lenape student and scholarships followed thereafter. Once a year the club decorated the library display case and landscaping and planting at the new Library courtyard began in January 1975. Held yearly also was a sponsored bus trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show and other sponsored bus trips over the years were to Duke Gardens, Longwood Gardens, and Bartram's Gardens to name a few.

