

OGC 75th Anniversary

May 6, 2024

2024: our 75th year. Wow! I wrote the program for Osterville Garden Club's 50th anniversary and what a ride it's been! These last 25 years have flown by. From a small group of 30 friends who got together for a baby shower in 1949, attendance has soared. It grew from 30 until it limited itself to 150 members. Today we are 88 members: Honorary, Active and Associate. In 1950 we had our first flower show and since then have had our own flower show or participated in the Southeast District Flower Show at Heritage Museums and Gardens in Sandwich regularly. We've hosted at least 50 house tours or flower shows since we incorporated.

What do we do with the funds we raise from these events? Scholarships to students from Barnstable High School, Sturgis Charter School and Cape Cod Vocational School. We have designed and maintained gardens at the Osterville Historical Society, Barnstable High School, and Audubon at Long Pasture. We have planted flowering trees on every Arbor Day throughout the villages of Barnstable.

We support our community. We place plants in our village libraries throughout the year. We put flower bouquets, designs

and plants in our libraries to brighten these special places. We have planted shrubs at the Centerville Historical Society, the Osterville Post Office, the Osterville Library to name a few.

Our Conservation Committee organizes walks from Sandwich to Wellfleet. At every meeting we discuss how conservation can improve water quality or keep our soils fertile or welcome and maintain our bird friends: just to name a few of the important issues we visit.

We educate our members. At our monthly meetings, in addition to our design and horticulture tables when we discuss the exhibits and award ribbons, we have speakers who enlighten us about traditional and modern design styles; speakers who explain what is happening to our cranberry bogs; speakers who address water quality issues and what our members can do to keep our water more than drinkable. We invite interested guests to attend.

We have small workshops with our very talented designers and horticulturists. Wouldn't you like to know what flowers look best in which container? Do you know how to tend your house plants throughout the year? What are those pesky bugs on your violets? When can I plant my annuals? How important is the amount of sun my roses get? Our club is interested in

everything green and our members are lively participants in all these get-togethers.

I think one of the most rewarding assets of this club is the friendships we have formed. We meet ten months a year when we share our garden news, what's new at home and good humor. We have a wonderful yearbook so we can be in touch and stay up to date with Club projects. We pour a lot of energy, good spirits and hard work into our club. The Osterville Garden Club is unique.

Happy 75th anniversary to you all.