**BOXWOOD GARDEN CLUB**

**PRESIDENT’S ANNUAL REPORT**

**2021-2022**

What a fast year it’s been! And after two years of programs being cancelled and zoomed, all of our meetings (except the Four Club Meeting) were held in person! Hopefully this trend will continue in the future!

The members of the Boxwood Board of Executives met in early June 2021 for a boxed lunch and get together at my house to begin planning our year. We spent many hours over the summer arranging speakers and meeting locations and updating and proofreading the Greenbook.

We had planned for our first event in the fall to be a luncheon for our Associate and Life Members at Cathy Lees home but we decided to postpone it for a year due to concerns over the coronavirus. This event has been rescheduled for this coming September.

Our first Membership meeting of the year was held at St. Mary’s church. In place of refreshments preceding our meeting we opted for take home treats. We continued this for the remainder of the year in an effort to keep our members safe. This was well received. Our speaker for this meeting was Molly Carey who started off the program by sharing the new GCV Video. She then gave a “tour” of our website with tips on how to navigate it. At our first meeting of the year we began a very popular “give-away”! Raffle tickets for door prizes that the Board members provided. This was much fun and we continued to have raffle drawings throughout the year.

Kit Sullivan attended the Board of Governors’ meeting hosted by the Lynchburg Garden Club and Hillside Garden Club in Lynchburg, Virginia in October. Our own Boxwood member, Missy Buckingham who is serving two years as the GCV President presided over the meeting. Many activities were included—cocktail parties, tours of homes and gardens, farm to table lunches, horticulture exhibits, dinners and speakers.

We held our October meeting at the Kent Valentine house and again, another member of our club presented the program. Janice Whitehead , along with Lois Spencer, from the Albemarle Garden Club demonstrated “green” methods of flower arranging without using floral foam. At this meeting we also elected five new members: Katherine Whitehead, Joan Sewell, Margaret Simpson, Laura Strickler and Amy Wilson. Two Boxwood members were Co-Chairs for the Richmond Historic Garden Week Tours and they presented information on the upcoming spring tour (Mignon Tucker and Amy Hudgens).

The Garden Club of Virginia held it’s 63rd Annual Conservation Workshop on October 25. This was a virtual presentation on “Birds, Feathers, Fields, Forests and Flowers”. Many of our members attended this very informative presentation.

Fine Arts and Flowers was held at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture on October 20-24. Kit Sullivan served as the GCV Liaison for the event. Lisa Caperton interpreted the sculpture “Reclining Figure” by Henry Moore with a beautiful, creative arrangement. Many members of the club attended the various events.

Our November meeting was held at All Saints Episcopal Church. Mr. Bill Street (husband of our member, Marge Street), who is the CEO of the James River Association enlightened us on the plans for the James River Association’s New Riverfront Learning Center. This center will be located on recently acquired property near the Low Line. Preceding this meeting, an Artistic Workshop for a “Papa Biedermeier” style arrangement was held in Kit’s driveway. This has proved to be a good way for veteran arrangers to assist our newer members. Another one of these workshops was help preceding the March meeting.

Boxwood Garden Club held a fundraiser the end of November at the Shops at 5807. Our club received 10% of all sales and two raffles were held for a basket of goodies and a David Pippin designed arrangement. This was the second year holding this event and while it doesn’t make us a lot of money it’s a very fun and festive event!

On December 2, Boxwood held a Holiday Wreath and Arrangement Workshop in the driveway of Kit’s house. Members created holiday wreaths and arrangements for their homes . Arrangements were also made and delivered to our Life Members.

The bi-yearly Four Club meeting was held in January. Originally scheduled to be in person at Lewis Ginter, the Four Club Presidents felt it was safer to hold this meeting by zoom. The speakers for this webinar were Missy Buckingham with a GCV update and Heidi James from the Lynchburg Garden Club on “How Lynchburg became a Bee City—and Richmond can be one too!”. Both speakers shared a lot of good information and club members were so enthusiastic about Richmond becoming a Bee City that a committee has formed to explore our options. Anna Aquino will serve as Co-Chair for this committee.

Stephanie Green, owner of Contained Creations presented the program at the February meeting at All Saints Episcopal Church. This was a well-attended and very informative presentation. She also brought several of her favorite gardening tools to share in our monthly raffle.

In March our meeting was held at the headquarters of TrueTimber in South Richmond. The owner, Scott Turner discussed his business philosophy which is to make connections to the earth and foster plant and community relationships. We were also able to tour the beautiful headquarters and campus which they share with a local Boy Scout troop and other community groups. Changes to our bylaws were also presented at this meeting and will be voted on by electronically in April. The two changes that were proposed and subsequently passed were an increase in dues that reflected the GCV dues increase and an increase in both Active and Associate members.

Daffodil Day was held in March at Lewis Ginter with the theme “The British are Coming”. Nella Timmons and Kathryn Angus designed and submitted an artistic exhibit. Kit Sullivan and Kay Tyler won ribbons in the horticulture exhibit.

Historic Garden Week was back with gusto!! Mignon Tucker and Amy Hudgens Co-Chaired the Richmond tours on April 26-28. It was marked by a once in a lifetime procurement of the former Ambassador Rice House, designed by mid century modernist Richard Neutra with 270-degree views of the James River. The current owners, David and Christy Cottrell graciously agreed to hold their home open for an unprecedented two days, both Tuesday and Thursday. On Thursday, a walking tour of the Rothesay Circle Neighborhood featured five homes and included the iconic Richmond Home of the Supreme Court Justice Louis Powell, now owned by a Boxwood new member, Laura Strickler. This event took over 300 volunteers, produced advertising sales of over $40,000, sponsorships over $27,000 and ticket sales which brought the grand total to approximately $160,000 (unofficial).

As if that weren’t enough, our members hosted a fabulous Cocktail Party the last evening of the tour at member, Lucy Rise’s home. This was very well attended; the flowers were gorgeous and the food was delicious. During the party two of our members were awarded the GCV Horticulture Award of Merit—Anna Aquino and Jane Cowles. GCV President, Missy Buckingham made the presentation. It was a very exciting evening!

Following the theme, “The British are Coming”, Paula Pryke gave a floral demonstration the beginning of May at the museum of History and Culture. Several of our members volunteered to make this a “smashing success”!

Natalee Johnsrud and Kit Sullivan attended the GCV Annual Meeting which was held at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond in early May. Tours of popular Richmond locations were given on Tuesday followed by a cocktail party at the Boathouse that evening. The meetings were held all day Wednesday followed by a cocktail party and dinner at the Country Club of Virginia. Missy passed the gavel to our new GCV President, Debbie Lewis.

Our partnership with Peter Paul Development Center continues. In May, many members met at PPDC to make arrangements to be presented to the donors of Peter Paul. We brought flowers and greenery from our yard and supplemented with purchased flowers. This was the second year we have participated in this event.

Horticulture Field Day was held in Alexandria, Virginia the middle of May. Five members of Boxwood were treated to tours of Green Spring Gardens, six private gardens and a full day at Mount Vernon. The head horticulturist from Mount Vernon gave us a detailed, wonderful tour of our first President’s home and grounds. Several members stayed to tour the Gristmill and Distillery.

Our Annual Meeting and Luncheon was held on a chilly, rainy day at the home of Jane and Don Cowles. Luckily, we had secured a tent with sides and stayed comfortable. A business meeting followed by awards and a luncheon were held. Awards presented are as follows:

--Artistic Award of Merit—Kathryn Angus

--Horticulture Award of Merit—Janice Whitehead

--Photography Award of Merit—Lee Nelson

--Artistic Award for Participation—Kathryn Angus

--Horticulture Award for Participation—Janice Whitehead

--Photography Award for Participation—Lee Nelson

On a sad note, we lost three members this year. A memorial in their honor was conducted at the annual meeting. We will miss Dottie Crunk, Suzanne Cecil and Barbara Catlett.

The Executive Board approved the following donations for the 2021-2022 year.

--Capital Trees (final installment of commitment) $333.00

--GCV Annual Fund Honoring Missy Buckingham $500.00

--Virginia Conservation Network $150.00

--Peter Paul Angel Tree $500.00

--Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens $300.00

--Historic Garden Week Honoring Mignon and Amy $400.00

We have a very extraordinary club made up of many wonderful, helpful, friendly members! Thank you to everyone who has helped make my first year as President such a pleasure!

Kit Sullivan

Boxwood Garden Club, President