

**Roanoke Public Libraries
Virginia Room
Botetourt County Council of Garden Clubs Collection**

Collection Description:

Repository: Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

Accession Number: 2011.21.02

Title: Botetourt County Council of Garden Clubs Collection

Physical Characteristics: 1 document storage case and 1 flat storage box

Donated by: J. H. Bolden

Arrangement: Documents are generally arranged chronologically

Creator: Botetourt County Council of Garden Clubs and Botetourt County Federation of Garden Clubs

Reproduction Restrictions: No known restrictions on publication. Virginia Room copy fees apply.

Processor: Angela Stiefbold, October 2024

Historical Note:

The Botetourt County Council of Garden Clubs was organized in October 1957. It initially consisted of seven member clubs: Fincastle Garden Club, Eagle Rock Garden Club, Plant and Hope Garden Club, Buchanan Garden Club, Big Spring Garden Club, Orchard View Garden Club, and Castle Garden Club. Its purpose was to hold countywide flower shows and programs. Later member clubs included: Bonsack Garden Club, Rainbow Forest Garden Club, and Flowering Hills Garden Club. There had been a precursor organization with a similar function, the Botetourt County Federation of Garden Clubs, active in the 1930s and 1940s. The Botetourt Council of Garden Clubs was dissolved in 1995.

Scope and Content:

The collection includes Botetourt County Council of Garden Club minutes and administrative documents for the years 1957-1976 and 1988-1995 as well as scrapbooks and albums that record the organization's activities through newspaper clippings, ephemera, and photographs covering the span of the council's existence. The 1961 Flower Show is well documented by a Scrapbook that won a state award and photographic slides of many entries. The collection also includes a flower show record book, covering the years 1933-38 from a precursor organization, the Botetourt County Federation of Garden Clubs.

Container List:

Box 1

Folder 1: Flower Show Record Book (1933-38), Loose Items – Newspaper clippings, Fincastle Garden Club report for 1936, undated lists of flower show entries and awards, financial records (1932-37). Items were removed from within the Flower Show Record Book (1933-38), in Box 2.

Folder 2: Botetourt County Flower Show Programs (1936-38, 1940)

Folder 3: Council Meeting Minutes, 1957-76, part 1 – Meeting minutes and attendance lists of officers and club representatives (October 1957 – May 1962)

Folder 4: Council Meeting Minutes, 1957-76, part 2 – Meeting minutes and attendance lists of officers and club representatives (August 1962- November 1976)

Folder 5: 1958-82 Scrapbook, Removed Items – Ephemera loose or easily removed from the scrapbook. Flower Show information and rules (1961, 1971); 1967 List of Members, Constitution, and By-Laws; “25th Anniversary 1957-82, Botetourt County Council of Garden Clubs,” which includes a history of the organization. Primarily consult digital copy of scrapbook; scrapbook located in Box 2.

Folder 6: 1958-82 Scrapbook, Photographs – Subjects include: 1958 flower show, 1960-61 officers, 1961 flower show, 1972 flower show, and undated meeting photographs. Primarily consult digital copy of scrapbook; scrapbook located in Box 2.

Folder 7: Castle Garden Club 25th Anniversary – List of attendees, photographs. Items were on “magnetic” album pages inserted in 1958-82 Scrapbook. Primarily consult digital copy of scrapbook.

Folder 8: Miscellaneous Flower Show Information – Newspaper clipping on 1952 Flower Show; draft announcement of 1966 flower show; ribbons awarded to Ella Firebaugh from 1986 flower show

Folder 9: 1961 Flower Show Scrapbook, photographs – Photographs of entries. Primarily consult digital copy of scrapbook; scrapbook located in Box 2.

Folder 10: 1961 Flower Show, slides – Slides of entries and key indicating what entry is shown in each slide.

Folder 11: 1972-88 Album, ephemera and photographs – Items removed from “magnetic” album. Programs from 1984 and 1988 flower shows; 25th Anniversary program; correspondence received; Council

Constitution and By-laws (1983); photographs from flower shows. Primarily consult digital copy of album.

Folder 12: Financial ledger and documents (1983-1995)

Folder 13: Event Programs – Botetourt County Council Flower Show (1984, 1986, 1990, n.d.), Blue Ridge District Fall Meeting (1991, 1992);

Folder 14: List of Council Awards and Recipients (1988) – List of the awards and trophies given by the council and the individuals presented them, by year. Latest year indicated is 1988.

Folder 15: Council Meeting Minutes, 1988-95 – Meeting minutes, lists of officers and club representatives, related correspondence.

Folder 16: Council Documents, 1988-95 – Constitution and by-laws, lists of garden clubs and representatives, newspaper clippings.

Folder 17: Correspondence Received (1991-93) – Council administration, thank you notes.

Folder 18: Photographs (1995) – Donation of awards display.

Folder 19: Fincastle Garden Club Constitution (n.d.)

Folder 20: “Duties of Officers and Chairmen of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs” (1963)

Folder 21: *Old Dominion Gardener*, Summer 1988 – Photos of Roanoke Council Flower Show on cover.

Box 2

Flower Show Record Book, Botetourt County Federation of Garden Clubs (1933-1938) – Includes lists of entries, summary of club results, planning meeting minutes. Loose items placed in Folder 1.

1958-82 Scrapbook, Botetourt Co. Council of Garden Clubs – Includes newspaper clippings, ephemera, and photographs documenting the activities of the organization, covering the years 1958-73 and the 25th Anniversary in 1982. Items of note include: list of 1958 officers and representatives; flower show information and rules (1958, 1961, 1971); 1967 List of Members; Constitution; By-laws; “25th Anniversary 1957-82, Botetourt County Council of Garden Clubs” pamphlet, which includes a history of the organization. Inserted in the back of the album were “magnetic” album pages for the 25th Anniversary of the Castle Garden Club; items from

these pages were removed and placed in Folder 7. Other photographs were removed and placed in Folder 6, and non-newspaper items that could be removed were placed in Folder 5. A digital file was created of the scrapbook and should be primarily consulted by researchers.

1961 Flower Show Scrapbook – Scrapbook documents the 1961 Flower Show, “Serenade to Spring.” Numerous original watercolor illustrations decorate the divider pages in the scrapbook. It includes show rules and entry form; list of judges; summary of entries by club; newspaper clippings regarding the show; and photographs of many entries. Photographs were removed and placed in Folder 9; photographic slides of the flower show are in Folder 10. A digital file was created of the scrapbook and should be primarily consulted by researchers.

Red Ribbon Award – Given to the Blue Ridge Council of Garden Clubs by the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs for Council Flower Show Achievement, 1961-62, as documented by the 1961 Flower Show Scrapbook.

Plaque – “Botetourt County Bicentennial, 1770-1970, Castle Garden Club, Float Third Place, Parade, June 27, 1970”

Digital Files

1958-82 Scrapbook, Botetourt Co. Council of Garden Clubs – See description of original in Box 2.

1961 Flower Show Scrapbook – See description of original in Box 2.

1972-88 Album, Botetourt Co. Council of Garden Clubs – This “magnetic” album included newspaper clippings, ephemera, correspondence received, and photographs, spanning the years 1972-82, with a few undated, likely earlier, additional clippings. Items of note include: “25th Anniversary 1957-82, Botetourt County Council of Garden Clubs” pamphlet, which includes a history of the organization; constitution and by-laws (Aug. 1983); 1984 Flower Show in conjunction with Mountain Magic in May, Buchanan, VA; and December 1988 Flower Show. Ephemera and photographs were removed and placed in Folder 11.