



The Garden Club of Bermuda 100th Anniversary • 1921 - 2021



On the 4th of April 1921, fifteen guests were invited by Mrs. Frederick Hill to meet in the garden of Pembroke Hall with the intention of forming a garden club. That afternoon the Bermudian, American and British attendees outlined a constitution and elected Mr. Freer Cox, the first president of The Garden Club of Bermuda. The international character of the founders led to amiable relations with organizations in Britain, the United States and Canada and later affiliations with the Royal Horticultural Society (1935), the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies of Great Britain (1964), The Garden Club of America (1966) and the World Association of Floral Arrangers (1981). These affiliations brought master gardeners and floral designers to the Island to give talks and demonstrations. Together with GCB members, they judged exhibits at Easter Floral Pageants and the annual Agricultural Exhibition. Since 1922, Club members have taken part in “The Ag Show” as exhibitors, stewards, judges and judges’ assistants.

In 1949, the Club inaugurated a Spring programme of Open Houses and Gardens. Funds raised by the popular event made possible the publications of *The Bermuda Garden* (edited by Christine Whitney) in 1955, *The Bermuda Jubilee Garden* (edited by Elfrida L. Wardman) in 1971, and *Bermuda: A Gardener’s Guide* (edited by George Ogden) in 2002. Funds were allocated as well for the establishment, in 1962, of scholarships for students and post-graduates who intended to make horticulture their life’s work. The scholarships would later benefit from funds endowed in memory of Dorothy and Bayfield Clark and Mr. Freer Cox. Recent scholarship recipients have pursued studies overseas in environmental science, landscape architecture, horticulture and other disciplines.

Since 2015, The Garden Club in a partnership with the Department of Parks, has administered funds and sponsored The Skills Development Programme designed for Bermudians ages 19 to 25. The programme develops the students’ competence and potential and, on completion, affords opportunities for employment.

Objectives of the GCB from its inception were the conservation of Bermuda’s native and endemic plants and the preservation of their natural habitats. An educational initiative, in 1968, introduced courses in botany and horticulture to interested members of the public. By happy coincidence, three of the lecturers were members of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries who had been helped in some parts of their professional training by grants from the Club.

Encouraged by the Garden Club’s campaign against litter, a Keep Bermuda Beautiful committee, formed in 1962, subsequently became an effective, island-wide organization. The Bermuda National Trust was founded in 1970 with the assistance of the Garden Club. Both the GCB and the Trust remain closely aligned in their missions to protect the Island’s unique culture and natural heritage.

To introduce primary school children to the delight of selecting seedlings to plant, water, weed and patiently watch grow, the Club has enlisted teachers to help with the planning and cultivation of school gardens around the Island and kitchen gardens at Government House. In 2015, GCB members launched Little Seedlings, offering classes to preschoolers at the Botanical Gardens where the children learn about the natural world by planting trees and flowers, growing their own vegetables and making rock gardens.

50c stamp (local) - Conservation & Education

Objectives of The Garden Club of Bermuda, from its inception, were the conservation of Bermuda's native and endemic plants and the preservation of their natural habitats. To achieve these objectives, in 1962, funds were allocated for the establishment of annual scholarships to be awarded to students and post-graduates who intend to make horticulture their life's work. In partnership with the Department of Parks, The Garden Club of Bermuda supports the Skills Development Programme.

\$1.15 stamp (zone 1) - The Bench Exhibits

The bounty and beauty of members' gardens are displayed on the flower, fruit, vegetable and herb benches where exhibits are identified, using the correct botanical name, and carefully prepared for judging. The exchange of plants (one of the Club's earliest activities) also continues to be popular. Members arrive early at meetings with potted seedlings, cuttings, clumps of plants, seeds and bulbs to place on the Plant Sharing Bench with its motto: "You don't need to bring, to take".

\$1.35 stamp (zone 2) - Floral Art

At the GCB meetings from October till May, talented floral artists create designs interpreting "Class titles" to be judged and inspire. Often, the chosen titles are whimsical or seasonal or a reference to the arts. Members at all levels, interested in the floral arts, are invited to Saturday workshops led by floral art judges. In recent years, GCB members have been honoured for their artistry with awards at international flower shows held by The World Association of Floral Artists (WAFA), Philadelphia, Boston and at Canada Blooms, Canada's largest flower and garden festival in Toronto. Floral art at these international shows is a wonderful expression of the designer's own culture and traditions as well as an opening up to the artistry of other cultures. Members who are international Floral Art judges travel frequently to judge at various shows around the world.

\$1.55 stamp (zone 3) - Smith Garden

Smith Garden is a gift from The Garden Club of Bermuda to the Town of St. George, on the occasion of the town (and its surrounding fortifications) acquiring the status of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. GCB member, Evelyn Young, designed the garden using antique bricks set in patterns and bordered by embankments of flowering shrubs and trees, to create an inviting retreat, in accord with its early 17th century surroundings. In 1999, HRH The Princess Royal, dedicated Smith Garden while on a visit to the Island.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

DESIGNER	Sheila Semos
PRINTER	CARTOR Security Printing
PROCESS	Lithography
STAMP SIZE	35mm x 35mm
PERFORATION	13.33 Per 2cms
PANE	50 (2 X 25)
PAPER	CASCO Crown Watermarked
VALUES	.50c, \$1.15, \$1.35 and \$1.55
RELEASE DATE	1 April 2021
Photographer:	Chris Burville
Linernotes:	Lucy Toland Murphy