

# Club Milestones: *Celebrations*



In 2025 members of Monadnock GC gathered for a luncheon to celebrate their club's centennial year. Photo by Jeanne Henriques

## Zone I

### Monadnock Garden Club

Jaffrey, NH

*Founded 1925, Joined 1928*

In early summer 2025, Monadnock Garden Club (MGC) reached a remarkable milestone and celebrated its 100th anniversary. As part of a season-long celebration, the club gathered in a member's picturesque garden to commemorate this historic occasion with a delightful luncheon and beautiful flowers.

Members embraced the occasion with colorful flair, wearing specially made 100th anniversary scarves and creatively decorated hats. One standout piece was a native plant

display handcrafted by MGC member Mary Bradley, which captured the essence of MGC's commitment to natural beauty and conservation.

Special attendees included former Zone Co-chairs Libby Moore and Peggy Mayfield, who joined in the festivities to celebrate the club's accomplishments. They presented a proclamation of commendation from the Governor of New Hampshire for the club's outstanding civic engagement and dedication to protecting important natural spaces.

The celebration also recognized the invaluable contributions of the club's leadership over many years. Ten former club presidents were honored with gifts of appreciation. The many years of

their service and leadership were instrumental in guiding the club through a century of growth and achievement.

Each member received an archival centennial booklet, thoughtfully curated with elements from the club's rich history. This keepsake serves as a tangible reminder of the club's enduring legacy and the dedication of its members.

—Emma Rivet

## Zone II

### Stonington Garden Club

Stonington, CT

*Founded 1926, Joined 2000*

Established in 1926, Stonington Garden Club (SGC) is

celebrating its 100th anniversary. On September 12, 2025, local town and state officials joined club members for a ceremony at Stonington's Town Hall. The event marked a century of growth, friendship, and dedication to the community and celebrated the planting of a white oak (*Quercus alba*), Connecticut's state tree, as a lasting gift to the town. Emceed by SGC Co-president Jill Corr, the ceremony included the presentation of a commendation from Danielle Chesebrough, former first selectwoman of Stonington, and a state citation from the Connecticut General Assembly, presented by State Senator Heather Somers and State Representative Aundré Bumgardner. In addition, a citation from The Garden Club

of America was presented by Zone II Co-Chair Kathy Conger.

Along with the white oak, SGC also donated a four-foot-tall northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), purchased as a six-inch seedling at a Connecticut College Arboretum plant sale three years ago. This past November, Stonington's Tree Warden coordinated with SGC to plant the oak on a newly acquired parcel, the "Circus Lot" along the Pawcatuck River, purchased last year from the town of Westerly, RI.

Additional events celebrating the club's centennial included the publication of *Nature's Bounty Cookbook*, a collection of recipes from club members that promotes sustainable cooking and food preparation. Gardens by the Sea, the club's popular

walking tour of private gardens in Stonington Borough, will be held this coming June. We expect more than 2,000 visitors, making this not only a highlight of the club's centennial celebration but also a significant community gathering that showcases the scenic charm of Stonington's gardens.

—*Dodie Bump*

## Zone VI

**Guilford Garden Club**  
Baltimore, MD  
*Founded 1925, Joined 1948*

Guilford Garden Club (GGC) celebrated its centennial in 2025. The club was formed in 1925 by ladies living in a new suburb of North Baltimore named



From left: Guilford GC co-presidents Kathleen Truelove and Beth Gregory toast the club's centennial with champagne and white gloves (apropos for 1925 ladies). Photo by Dorcas Hutton

Guilford, which was, and still is, a lovely place to live and to garden. Membership has now expanded beyond Guilford, but is still centered on North Baltimore and suburbs to the north.

Our centennial was celebrated throughout the year. GGC's Archives Committee dug deep into the files to produce a book, *100 Bloomin' Years*, and to organize 100 years of paper. Using a roster of original members, a map of their homes was developed to use for a walking tour, to be enjoyed by members in groups or on their own. Interestingly, only one of those original 25 ladies apparently had a first name— she was unmarried. All of the others were "Mrs. John Smith" but

never "Mary Smith." We hosted a gala garden party in September with our husbands invited. Refreshments included cupcakes decorated with marsh marigolds, our club flower.

GGC's first community project was a garden at the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA), which was later dug up to make way for a new building. For our centennial project, we wanted to return to BMA. When we approached the museum, we found them to be willing partners. This time, we were determined not to have our project torn up, so the selected site was the courtyard of Antioch Court, an inner space in the main museum building with mosaics lining the walls and an



Connecticut State Representative André Bumgardner and State Senator Heather Somers present Stonington GC Co-President Jill Corr (center) with an official citation commemorating the club's centennial. Photo by Dodie Bump