

Collection #
M 1500
BV 5552-5555

**ARBUTUS GARDEN CLUB
RECORDS, 1934-2015**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	4 manuscript boxes, 1 half-sized box of color photographs, four bound volumes, one small photo album, 1 printed item
COLLECTION DATES:	1934-2015
PROVENANCE:	Sharon Terry for the Arbutus Garden Club, 2019
RESTRICTIONS:	None
COPYRIGHT:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	Sunny Hours Garden Club Records (M1226)
ACCESSION NUMBER:	2019.0314
NOTES:	Color photographs, which are kept in cold storage, need at least four hours to acclimate to room temperature. Patrons are advised to make an appointment ahead of their visit if they wish to view those items.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

“The Arbutus Garden Club was organized in October 1934. Its nucleus was a small club that Mrs. C. F. Helm (Alma) belonged to, who met out of friendship, and in Alma’s own words, to “chit chat.” Alma’s love of flowers prompted her to approach her fellow club members to see if they were interested in becoming a garden club. Half were interested, and those met at Alma’s home. Mrs. Minor [Alberta] Goulding, a member of the Marigold Garden Club, helped with the by-laws, and the Arbutus Garden Club was started. It was the sixth garden club in [Indianapolis]. The charter members were: Mesdames C. F. [Alma] Helm, Ralph [Lelia] Varin, Fred [Elsie] Ranney, Fred O. [Bernice] Lane, and James [Ida] Darrow.” The club’s motto is “Beauty.” Its official colors are pink and green. Its official flower is the arbutus.

“In 1970 our interest turned to the grounds around the President Benjamin Harrison Home. Kate Fatout headed the committee of Betty Browning, Alma Helm, Helen Spradling, Lelia Varin, and Virginia Zaiser. Their mission was to not only make suggestions for the flower gardens, but to help by actually contributing and planting flowers and trees.”

Over its history, the club has participated in countless flower shows, demonstrations, garden visits, and presentations. In 2014, the club observed its 80th Anniversary, which was celebrated with a luncheon, silent auction, and tour at the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Home. That same year, the club filed articles of incorporation with the State of Indiana, and Arbutus Garden Club, Inc., a public benefit corporation was created. Its stated purposes are: (a) Stimulating knowledge and love of gardening, and (b) Aiding in the protection of native trees, plants, and birds.

Sources:

Materials in the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is comprised of the records created and kept by the Arbutus Garden Club. In the earliest years of the club, the only records kept were scrapbooks of articles, ribbons, and a few photographs. As the club grew in number and activity, the recordkeeping became more sophisticated. However, the mode and format of the records varied according to the preferences of the officers at any given time. For example, in some cases, meeting minutes were kept separate from club newsletters. At other times, such as the 2010s, the minutes were included in the newsletter.

The records have been maintained by the processor in the order they were received as far as possible and arranged chronologically. The only notable exception other than photographs, which were separated for preservation purposes, is material related to Coburn Place, an Indianapolis shelter which the club has supported at different times. All Coburn Place materials were collected into a single folder in Box 2.

Photographs were kept in original albums where appropriate. Others were collected from throughout the collection and foldered by original groupings and arranged chronologically.

A disc containing backup files for 2014-2015 records was also provided by the donor. These are expected to be duplicates of those represented within the manuscript material, but access to them is available upon request.

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Christmas at the Lilly Pavilion (IMA), 1985

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CONTAINER

BV5552

General Collection:
SB441 .N38 1945

BV5553

BV5554

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