

Letter written from Marguerite Cunningham to Pat Scolaro.

Pat: This writing really took me back to a wonderful place. Hope you enjoy the reading and can use some of it.

Bonnie was actively involved in the Burleith Garden & Nature Club, serving as president or Co-Pres. of the organization for many years during the 1980's and throughout the '90s. Beautification of the Burleith Tot Lot was a notable project carried out by the garden club. Members planted and maintained dozens of shrubs, flowering perennials, and annuals on the interior and exterior grounds of the play area which fronts directly onto 35th Street at the old Fillmore School.

During that period the Burleith Garden & Nature Club boasted 30 active members who attended monthly lectures on topics ranging from the gypsy moth to nature photography. Lectures were sometimes held at the former Gordon Jr. High School, often following general meetings of the BCA.

Under her leadership members periodically conducted "street tree surveys" in Burleith to determine the condition of every tree and to replace dead trees. The garden club worked closely with the D.C. Dept of Public Works on those surveys.

The Burleith Garden & Nature Club belonged to the National Federation of Garden Clubs. Bonnie and members were involved in clean-ups of nature trails at the Arboretum and raised money to support nature conservancy by selling Federation cookbooks.

Community Outreach was very important to the Burleith Garden Club. During those years Bonnie and members participated in various activities such as the Georgetown House & Garden Tour, the Flower Mart at the National Cathedral, and our very own annual Burleith neighborhood clean-up. Bonnie's love of plants and all things in nature could be encapsulated in her favorite workshop which was teaching the children to make Victorian nose-gays at the Burleith picnic.

Note ~Pat: Bonnie and I worked very closely during those years. She and I alternated as President or Vice-Pres. Then we decided to go it as Co-Presidents. It was fabulous. We started the Tot Lot Beautification Project in 1985. Activism grew from that project.

Around 2000 the club disbanded. Many members moved away or passed away. It was a wonderful era~1983-1999.