

The Garden Forum of Greater Akron Collection

Special Collections – Akron-Summit County Public Library

ACCESSION #: 2008-3

ACQUISITION: Donated by Garden Forum of Greater Akron, c/o Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich, on February 1, 2008

ACCESS: Restricted access; materials fragile; access by request at Akron-Summit County Public Library's Main Library Special Collections division only.

VOLUME: 39 scrapbooks, 33 binders, 32 ledger books, 21 boxes, two envelopes, 36 linear ft.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: The Garden Forum of Greater Akron was founded in 1932. Its purpose was to unite and foster collaboration between area garden clubs. It organized and facilitated several activities, including flower shows, and operated a Garden Center and a library in the O'Neil's building in downtown Akron. The Garden Forum was also one of the groups associated with the opening of Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens in 1958, and has had close ties with Stan Hywet since.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: This collection consists of a large variety of documents related to the operations and activities of the Garden Forum, including meeting minutes, newsletters, budgets and other financial documents, scrapbooks with photos and clippings, various reports, and documents from flower shows and other events. It also includes a handwritten diary of the day-to-day operations of the Garden Center, 1938-1955.

ARRANGEMENT: This collection is organized into seven series, which are arranged roughly by subject or purpose of documents. Original order of the collection as presented by the donor has been maintained as much as possible, so there are many documents included in a series that are unrelated to the subject of the series. The researcher is encouraged to search thoroughly.

INVENTORY:

SERIES 1: Meeting minutes and corporation books

Subseries 1: Ledger books, 1932-2000 (32 books)

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE: These include minutes for several types of meetings, including regular member meetings, regular and called executive board meetings, and annual meetings. These handwritten records were often later transcribed by typewriter and typed copies may be found in Series 2.

Subseries 2: Corporation books, 1959-2006 (3 boxes, 22 binders, 1 envelope)

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE: These are in three-ring binders and include minutes for several types of meetings. Individual binders may be titled "Recording Secretary Minutes" or "Meeting Minutes." Earlier corporation books (1959- c.1980) are mostly meeting minutes; later corporation books (c. 1980-2005) include many types of documents such as budgets and financial statements, correspondence, and reports of officers and events.

SERIES 2: Newsletters (*Sundials*) 1934-1998; directories 1956-1958; member club yearbooks 1985-1987 and c. 1992-1994 (6 boxes)

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE: This series also includes some flower show schedules and specimen and exhibit schedules. Yearbooks are small, handmade decorative books of Garden Forum member clubs

which include lists of officers and brief description of the year's activities. Many later newsletters are also scattered among other series.

SERIES 3: Membership lists and officer reports/notebooks (2 boxes, 3 binders)

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE: Includes membership lists, 1983-1989 and 1993; also various officer reports or notebooks: Historian, 1965-2004; Executive Board, 1971-73; First Vice President, 1976-1982; Second Vice President, 1989-92; and annual reports with budgets and miscellaneous documents, 1990-1993.

SERIES 4: Garden Center and Library documents (4 boxes)

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE: Includes handwritten Garden Center diary 1938-1955, "record of gifts and givers" book, accession record of library books, Garden Center inventory November 1970, and clipping about Marjorie Bolton Clelland, former head of Akron Public Library East and Chamberlain Branches, who devised the Garden Center Library classification system.

SERIES 5: Events

Subseries 1: Specimens and exhibits, 1983-2002 (1 box, 2 binders)

Subseries 2: Flower shows, scattered years 1952-1995 (4 boxes, 3 binders, 1 envelope)

Subseries 3: Table setting contests, scattered years 1936-1968 (1 box)

Subseries 4: Other events: May Mart 1980-1981, Ameriflora 1992 (3 binders)

SERIES 6: Miscellaneous documents (1 box)

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE: This includes documents that do not fit into any of the above series, or are not dated. It also includes a copy of the organization's bylaws and policy book from 1996.

SERIES 7: Scrapbooks and photo albums, 1920s-2000s (39 scrapbooks)

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE: Includes three scrapbooks kept by others: Federation Garden Club, c. 1925 - 1969; and two garden scrapbooks kept by an unidentified individual, c. 1931 - 1933.