

Chesapeake Bay Garden Club honors long-time club member Joan Clements



Joan Clements joined Chesapeake Bay Garden Club in 1996. For 22 years she was an active, vital member of our club. All who knew her enjoyed her pleasant, helpful ways, and her friendly smile.

Joan is currently residing at Commonwealth Assisted Living in Kilmarnock, Virginia*. Her presence at CBGC—her smile, her poems, and her beloved dog,

Freckles (who was recently always by her side)—is missed by everyone who knew her.

As a club member Joan was most recognized for her wealth of knowledge of horticulture. At meetings she was always available—friendly, smiling, and helpful—to assist with identifying the plant specimens brought in by club members for horticulture exhibits. Her knowledge of plants was phenomenal, as she could identify most species by both common and botanical names. At several CBGC flower shows, Joan served as the Horticulture Consultant, ensuring the accuracy of the nomenclature and classification of exhibits.

She held many positions within the club over the years, serving as a Club President from 2011-2013. In 2013, Joan envisioned and helped organize a flower show, *Fiber Arts and Flowers*, which featured exhibits of Fiber Arts interpreted with floral designs. It was a very popular show where members of area fiber guilds were invited to exhibit their needlework, weaving, knitting, quilting, and other fabric

arts. Garden club members exhibited floral designs that enhanced and ‘interpreted’ the fiber art exhibits.

Another successful project designed and orchestrated from start to finish by Joan was the Daffodil Garden planted in front of Northumberland High School to honor all of the students of Northumberland County. Beginning in the fall of 2010 and continuing through the fall of 2011, club members along with a group of Northumberland school children planted almost 4,000 bulbs. Every spring, the blooming of thousands of daffodils in front of the school is a delightful sight; one which will be enjoyed for many years to come!

With her love of plants and gardening, Joan became a Master Gardener, attending local classes with Virginia Cooperative Extension in Northumberland County and also at Virginia Tech. As a Master Gardener Joan volunteered her time and expertise for CBGC and throughout the county.

Joan was a dedicated District club member, serving as Horticulture Chairman for Piedmont District, as well as attending the District meetings over the years.

In addition to her involvement with CBGC, Joan was very involved in the Northern Neck community. She volunteered at the Reedville Fishermens’ Museum where she was a docent and co-chair of the hospitality committee for several years. She volunteered for the Red Cross and was Chapter Executive Director of the Northumberland Chapter for many years. She also volunteered at the Free Health Clinic every week, ending her long tenure there in 2017. She maintained credentials as a Pharmacy Technician in order to increase her contribution at the clinic. Because of her many contributions to the local Red Cross with hurricane relief, fire displacement relief, blood drives and many other services to the community she was

awarded *Woman of the Year for Northumberland County* in 2009 by the Northumberland Women's Club.

Joan was a voracious reader who amazed us all with her vast wealth of knowledge collected from a wide range of topics. She loved poetry and could recite many verses from memory. As a writer, she shared her insights in hundreds of poems and articles.

Joan was born in Paris Ontario Canada in 1934. She met her husband, Bob, in school and married at the young age of 17. They moved to the States where Bob was a builder of churches and schools along the East Coast. Together they had five children; three daughters and two sons. They moved to Northern Virginia and raised their family there. For over 20 years Joan worked with Fairfax County Public Schools Food Service as a manager and supervisor for cafeterias, and at the same time, went to George Washington University where she received her degree in Business Administration. In 1982 they retired and moved to the river where she and Bob built their home and enjoyed many happy years fishing and gardening.

**Address for Commonwealth Assisted Living:
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- Dody Douglas
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