

## GARDEN CLUB

From Page 2

giving community wide services. It wasn't unusual for this club to win state awards for beautification. In 1963, the club took the top award for the most outstanding beautification project, the cherry tree project, by the Garden Club of North Carolina. In 1984, its project of beautification at Cherryville Public Library earned a state award.

Every member of the garden club has a green thumb and it's evident they are women who love to garden. The yards of their homes in Cherryville are tended as lovingly as the projects they sponsor for the community.

A newspaper article in 1968 proclaims "Garden Club Saves Old City Hall." The small wooden structure built when M. L. Rudisill was mayor was rescued from the city's utility lot and now has a permanent home in a Cherryville park.

Ann Moose recalled that a cherry tree was planted at the American Legion Building in 1973 in honor of Prisoners of War and the 'Welcome to Cherryville' sign on the Cherryville-Dallas Highway was beautified with the help of agriculture students.

"The Gardener of the Year" award was initiated by the club in 1976. Each year a member is chosen in recognition of her work and to encourage members to beautify their own surround-

ings and the community at large. Price is a recent recipient of this prestigious award.

Home gardening has always been important to club members who plant bulbs, flowers and shrubs and take floral arrangements to meetings in September-June. End of the year luncheons and Christmas-season luncheons celebrate the work of the club and the winners of team arrangements.

The Mini Park, the front of City Hall, Cherryville Municipal Recreation Park, the base of the Rudisill Stadium scoreboard, assistance in landscaping at the Cherryville Little Theatre, planting of tree saplings in the yard of the Habitat for Humanity home and beautifying of Main Street are just a few of the areas this club helped beautify. For garden therapy, members make Easter favors for nursing home residents.

Other projects of the club have included 'Don't be a Litterbug,' recycling and a lunch buddy program at Cherryville Elementary School

The historian reported that 1998 brought the "ritis" to the club, "neuritis, bursitis and arthritis" and some members "quit stooping, squatting and digging" as they had done for years. Instead of doing much of the gardening themselves in

their beautification projects, they started selling various items including compost bins to help in landscape and beautification costs for planting of bulbs and seasonal flowers in strategic locations in town. In 2000, they made a donation to assist in maintaining the Alex Blackwelder Memorial Garden at Chavis Middle School and participated in the annual Cherry Blossom Festival, which is planned this year in April. Members recalled their participation in the first flower show at the first festival in 1993.

In 1999, the Gaston County Image Committee gave the club \$1,000 to be used to landscape the area around the gazebo at the mini-park and to plant bulbs and seasonal flowers around the Cherryville library. Contributions were made by the club to the NC Garden Club to be distributed among the Elizabethan Gardens, Daniel Boone Native Garden and Scholarship Fund.

Members are currently encouraging organizations and individuals to buy flowering cherry trees to be planted in selected locations in the city.

Although last Wednesday's get-together was not a regularly scheduled meeting, garden clubbers enjoyed a nostalgic visit, chatting about their plans

for sprucing up yards when the weather is right for planting, and enjoying memories of the club's 50th anniversary and long history.

"This is such a good crowd for a called meeting," said President Putnam.

Other officers present were Wilma Metcalf and Carlene Price, vice presidents; Isabelle Paige, secretary; Vivian White, treasurer, Gwen Putnam, historian; and Wilma Browne, chaplain. Also attending were Maude Carter, Bobbie Rudisill, June Kirby, Chris Sneed, Christine Cadwalder, Wilma Beam, Ann Moose, Janet Anderson, Mary Larsen, Dot Beam and Margaret Webb.

Mrs. Price served hot tea and coffee with party pickups at 10 a.m. as members enjoyed photographs, the scrapbook and fellowship, always a hit with active club members.

## ROOF

From Page 3

year. Finally, metal roofs are easily installed over existing shingle roofs.

The biggest factor that causes folks to stop before they take the metal roofing plunge is the cost.

True, it costs about three times more to put a steel roof on you house than a conventional shingle roof, but keep in mind

that it's a one-time thing. After 15 or so years, your asphalt shingle roof will be wearing thin, and the metal roof will still have 10 more years to go before the color even begins to fade. In the long run, metal is competitive with shingles.

If you plan to move every few years, then a metal roof might not be right for your situation. However, if you plan to live in your home for a long period of time, then it will pay to check out metal when it comes time to reroof.

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