

# Spade & Trowel Club

In partnership with the Chadds Ford Historical Society

*“Dedicated to stimulating interest and knowledge in gardening, flower arrangement and conservation for the benefit of its membership and the community”*

It's a beautiful autumn day at the Historic Barns Brinton House / Tavern located just south of Kennett Square in Chester County. The kitchen gardens are made ready for winter and already the Ladies of the Spade & Trowel are busy making preparations for Spring plantings. Making ready after a summer's harvest as the Spade & Trowel Club has done since the early seventies as a contribution to the Chadds Ford Historical Society which owns and maintains this 300 yr old house museum.

The Spade & Trowel Club has been in existence for almost 80 years and a member of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania since 1946. Its current 35 members continue a long tradition of volunteer services to beautify area parks, provide flower arrangements for community affairs and has participated in local and regional flower shows.



The Spade & Trowel Club participates in the Philadelphia Flower Show traditionally every other year and in 2014 placed second in their Category. A must see event, The Club will again participate in the Flower Show in 2016. Locally, the annual Longwood Flower Show continuously benefits from extensive member participation both as staffers and exhibitors.

The building and grounds of the Barns Brinton House/ Tavern are open to the public and a dominate feature of the approaches to the House Museum are the Historical Kitchen Gardens. The Spade & Trowel Club takes great care to maintain the historical context and accuracy of the Gardens which now consist of 6 beds



planted as they would have been 300 yrs. ago. Each bed is dedicated to growing Medicinal herbs for health, Culinary herbs for food enhancement , Vegetables for the Dinner Table and Flowers.

The garden beds have been rebuilt on three occasions over their 40 yr. history, the latest reconstruction having just taken place this past spring. Our gardens are planted on the south side of the House/Tavern, historically they would have been on the east side closest to the Kitchen, however this space is occupied by Baltimore Pike Rt 1. Continued efforts to make the gardens more informative to the public will be the incorporation of signage identifying the individual plantings and plaques describing a brief history of the importance of the kitchen garden to the 18<sup>th</sup> century occupants.



Our 21<sup>st</sup> century volunteers of Spade & Trowel strive to carry on this living history to promote appreciation for colonial life as it was here in a new and emerging America so many years ago. Some of the members here with us this fine autumn day are pictured here :



**Top Row Left to Right:** Denise Klein, Ann Bryce, Gerrie Lunger, Soraya Goldstein, Deb Adelman, Beth Vinyard

**Bottom Row Left to Right:** Suzanne Pusey, Andi Buehler, Sandy Yeatman

The Chadds Ford Historical Society appreciates the devoted attention and interest these Ladies have contributed to the Barns Brinton House/Tavern. Through their efforts here and throughout the community we all have a better place to live and we all hope for them a bright sunny day as we had this day.