



Mrs. William R. Thurston (Virginia)
28th GCFM President
1977-1979
“Let’s Communicate”
193 clubs – 12,883 members



The President started her term of office determined to raise fund for the Scholarship Fund with a quilt project. Each district embroidered a wildflower square the first year and a perennial flower the second year. She carried the quilts around the state selling chances for the quilts. This project was successful, not only because it raised over \$2,000, but because it became a means of communication. The ACE committee held very effective panel discussions at both club and district meetings. The Roadside chairperson collected over \$500 for “Operation Wildflower” plantings at two rest areas. GCFM elected to do limited lobbying under the New Lobby Act of 1976.

The Smokey Bear contest concluded by taking the two state winners to the State House to be photographed with Governor Dukakis and Smokey Bear.

The Garden Therapy chairperson participated in a weekend conference in Rhode Island, and held statewide workshops for the local clubs, and wrote organization guidelines.

GCFM exceeded the goal of \$10,000 for the American Land Trust by \$3,000, saving Half Way Pond.

Seventy members represented GCFM at the International Flower Show in Bermuda. Thirty participated in the show, with five blue ribbons and five top awards.

La Verne Collard updated the *Leadership Guide* and prepared *Guidelines for Board Members*, *Guidelines for Garden Clubs* and *Guidelines for Convention Chairmen*.

Note: Mrs. Thurston also served a term as Director in the New England Garden Clubs (NEGC) 1987-1989