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I. This State Forest was deeded by gift to the Department of Conservation and Economic Development on the 14th day of February 1938. This land was deeded to the State for use as a forest by the Conway Robinson Park Memorial Association, a non-stock corporation (relatives, family, and friends of Mr. Robinson). Furthermore, this gift of land to the State was for the purpose of perpetuating the memory of the late Mr. Conway Robinson through the construction, development, and beautification of this forest area.

Some of the conditions that were stipulated in this deed are as follows:

(a.) That said land will be held and administrated by the Virginia Division of Forestry as a State Forest, wild flower and wild life preserve, and preserved free of commercialization.

(b.) That said land shall be designated as the "Conway Robinson Memorial State Forest" and an appropriate marker be placed on Routes 29 and 211 by the Division of Forestry.

(c.) The land that was in woodland in 1938 shall be preserved so far as possible in its natural state, and no trees or timber shall be cut therefrom except such as it may be desirable to cut for the purpose of eliminating fire hazards, improving the growth and development of nearby trees or vegetation, or eliminating dead, decayed or unsightly growth. I might add here that approximately 300 of the 400 acres in this forest is at present in old growth, large hardwoods. Furthermore, there has been nor in the agreement never will be any hunting allowed on this area. There are at present numerous species of small game, wild turkey, and deer. More will be said about the plantations on this area and the cutting policies later.

(d.) It was further agreed that as a State Forest the Division of Forestry would cooperate with the National Wildflower Preservation Society, the National Audubon Society, and other organizations and associations devoted to same or similar purpose in the use of said land for the preservation and fostering of growth, maintenance, and propagation of native wildflower and bird life.

II. Of the 400 acres, more or less, in this property at the time it was deeded to the State, there were approximately 100 acres of abandoned fields and unused land on this property. In the spring immediately following the gift of this property to the State, and under the direction of the Division of Forestry with the help of the Civilian Conservation Corp, these 100 acres of unused land were immediately planted to trees. This was completed in 1938 and 1939. At that time there were approximately 65 acres planted to loblolly pine, 20 acres to white pine, and 15 acres to shortleaf pine. Also at that period for the purpose of study and to see what other species would do in this area, a small acreage was planted in the following species: slash pine, yellow poplar, Norway spruce, saw tooth oak, exotic chestnut, and in recent years for experimental purposes small areas have been planted with sycamore, white ash, Eastern red cedar, red pine, and Scotch pine. In 1958-59 the 65 acres of loblolly pine, which was then at that point twenty and twenty-one years old, was thinned for a commercial pulpwood cut. (Under the agreement, no commercial timber sale could be made from the commercial hardwoods that originally grew on this property, but the plantations that were established could be so managed as a forest land.) There were approximately 900 cords of thinnings taken from the loblolly stands and from the 15 acres of shortleaf pine, which was really not commercially for a silvicultural thinning, approximately 150 cords were removed in a mechanical type thinning by removing every other row. This was necessary since the stand was stagnated due to the density, but to make it economically feasible it was necessary, due to the size of the trees in the shortleaf pine stand, to cut every other row. The white pine at present could stand a light thinning but due to the spacing the trees have not pruned sufficiently to make an economical cut due to the expensive cost of limbing. The Division of Forestry has started a pruning operation in the white pine and in the near future we hope to be able to thin the white pine as needed. The loblolly pine has made the best growth and shows the best potential for the future.

III. At the entrance to this forest on Route 29 and 211, a small area is provided for recreational use. On this area there is a large picnic shelter which will seat thirty to forty people, with picnic tables provided. There are also four outdoor fire places, trash incinerators, and trash barrels provided with picnic tables provided for these fire places. There are outdoor rest rooms provided for both men and women. There is a well on this picnic area with sufficient drinking water that is approved and safe. No camping is allowed on this forest unless prior permission is obtained from the Virginia Division of Forestry.

IV. Two small areas that front on Route 29 and 211 have been set aside and appropriate markers placed for the Federation of Garden Clubs which is called the Fernstrom Forest Area and also for the Daughters of American Revolution. These two organizations have erected large stones with bronze plaques recognizing their organizations and ornamental plantings have been made around these markers and in the past some work by these organizations has been done to keep these areas in an aesthetic looking condition.

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The Fernstrom Memorial Forest

BY FRANCES K. FILLEY

The Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs was born on March 16, 1933 in Norfolk, Virginia. It was the brain-child of Mrs. Cornelia Hodgeman Fernstrom, of Lawson Hall, President of the Federation of Garden Clubs of Norfolk, and a member of the Garden Club of Virginia. Mrs. Fernstrom, a woman of broad vision, realized that very few garden clubs could enjoy the privileges of federation membership, since the Garden Club of Virginia extended an invitation to only one club in a city, and decided to broaden the sphere of garden club activities in her beloved state.

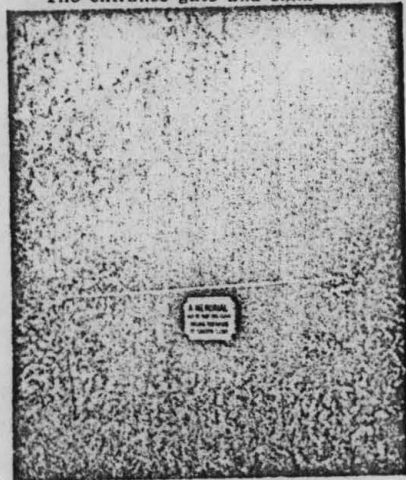
She wrote for advice to the President of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Mrs. Frederic R. Kellogg of Morristown, New Jersey, at the same time that Mrs. C. A. Seaton of Staunton also requested information. Through their joint efforts, the Virginia Federation came into being, with thirty-four charter clubs.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Fernstrom passed away the following year, but the seed she planted has grown amazingly. There are now almost five hundred clubs, representing over fifteen thousand members.

In 1938 a large tract of 400 acres was endowed and given to the State of Virginia by Miss Conway Robinson in memory of her parents. The Federation was given fifty acres, which was dedicated to the memory of Cornelia Hodgeman Fernstrom on March 30, 1939, at which time impressive ceremonies were held and a bronze tablet unveiled. This Fernstrom Memorial is located in the Conway-Robinson Memorial Forest, on Lee Highway, Routes 29-211, one mile east of Gainesville, and about thirty miles west of Washington, D. C.

At the present time this memorial, a bronze plaque on a large stone boulder, is in a pine forest, about 125 feet from the highway, but practically invisible because of weed growth, honey-

The entrance gate and sign.



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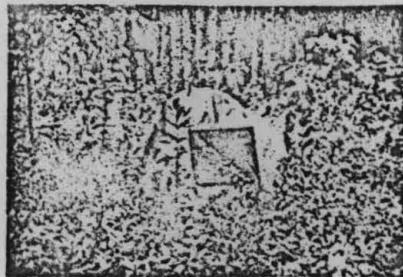
suckle and poison ivy. A large farm gate in a rusty fence stands ajar nearby, bearing a sign of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, advising the passing public that: "This is a Memorial. Please keep it clean." Up to the present time it has been impossible to improve this site, because highway plans were indefinite, but now the dual highway has been completed, and it is high time that the area be improved, and become a Memorial of which the Federation can be proud. WALLACE F. CUSTARD

Mr. George Dean, State Forester, has jurisdiction over this Forest area, and has, at this time, surveyed and mapped a twenty-five acre tract for our present use. He has also approved our plan for beautification of the roadside area, which is designed to preserve and foster the growth of native flower and bird life. The area remote from the highway will be retained in its natural woodland state, subject only to elimination of unsightly weed growth or removal of dead material.

At the last Annual Convention, money was appropriated for the start of this project, and every garden club member in the State may take pride in its accomplishment. What more fitting memorial could there be than a project of roadside beautification, consisting of a well-landscaped and protected monument, surrounded by a grove of dogwood trees, our state tree, with one tree representing each member club of the Federation!

A well-known landscape architect, horticulturist and lecturer, Dr. J. Morton Franklin, has planned for improvement and development of an area near the roadside, including the dogwood grove, evergreen plantings, and flagstone walk and patio around the marker. An appropriate sign will be placed near the highway, so that all who pass will know the significance of the Memorial. Naturalized bulb plantings will be added from time to time, with all improvements planned for easy maintenance and future beauty.

A development of this kind will require very little upkeep and, once established, will be a thing of increasing beauty for years to come. The clubs of the Virginia Federation will be proud, in future years, to point to their accomplishment, a fitting memorial to the far-seeing woman who founded their organization.



School Grounds Contest

Realizing that a great part of the formative years of children is spent in the Elementary and High Schools of our country and that the future success of the creation and preservation of outdoor beauty is the responsibility of our youth, the South Atlantic Region offers two awards for 1956-57 in the field of School Grounds Improvement. Each state of the Region is asked to sponsor a School Grounds Improvement Contest. The winners in each state are to compete for the Regional Award. There will be two classes: (1) The grounds of an existing Elementary, Junior High or Senior High School Building; (2) The grounds of an Elementary, Junior High or Senior High School Building which is now under construction.

Rules

1. All Virginia applicants shall submit applications to state chairman, Mrs. G. J. Pierce, 7700 Hillview Ave., Richmond 26, Va., on or before December 20, 1956 for judging on state level. State winner will be submitted to South Atlantic Regional Contest Chairman. Be sure to state names of club or clubs and person making application.

2. Before and after pictures must accompany each entry.

3. Planning shall be done by a registered Landscape Architect and shall include:

- (a) General landscape plan of grounds
 1. This plan shall show location of: buildings, drive, walks, parking, recreation area for boys and girls, open lawn areas, tree-shaded areas and other proposed planting.
- (b) Grading plan
 1. This drawing will show how grounds are arranged to take full advantage of site, proper grading to avoid low spots, and provision for gutters and downspouts and distribution of runoff water.

- (c) Contruction details
 1. This sheet will show how such items as drives, walks, steps, tennis court, back stops, outdoor drinking founts, etc., are to be constructed.
- (d) Planting plans
 1. These plans will show actual location, botanical and common names, size and quantity of all plants to be used on the school grounds and any proposed school gardens.

4. Please feel free to write to your state chairman for additional information or to ask questions.

Close-up of the marker which reads:
This twenty-five acre tract
of the
CONWAY ROBINSON FOREST
is dedicated to the use of
THE VIRGINIA FEDERATION
OF GARDEN CLUBS
by the
VIRGINIA FOREST SERVICE
March 30, 1939