

# THE CHESAPEAKE BULLETIN

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## April Showers Bring May Flowers

By Tom Kenney

The run of wet weather that started in April, which has continued into May, has brought a lush green backdrop to the countryside around Baltimore. It has also helped all the flowering plants flourish. Baltimore's annual rite of spring, the 91<sup>st</sup> Flowermart, had the right combination of weather and moisture preceding the two-day show and a beautiful sunny, spring day for the Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> opening.

Everyone seemed to be eager to begin enjoying the nice days that spring in Baltimore brings. By 10 AM on May 2<sup>nd</sup> the streets around the Washington Monument were already crowded – a full hour before the official opening of Flowermart. The traffic on Saint Paul St. was crawling because of all the barricaded streets surrounding Mt. Vernon Place and North Charles St. But most of our cars were in place well before the opening. Each car owner received an official Flowermart pink and black badge proclaiming that we were an Exhibitor in the *Classy Chassie Car Show* – the first time ever that the Club has participated in a car show with that name!

Flowermart's opening ceremony was scheduled for noon on the main stage in the monument circle on Charles St. In previous year's, the Flowermart dignitaries arrived at the opening ceremony in horse drawn carriages. However, this year the carriages were not available, so Chesapeake Region was asked to provide some convertibles to make the short parade up the Charles St. hill. Ron Siegrist's 1966 gold

Cadillac Eldorado and Boots Petrucci's bright red 1964 Corvair were selected for the job. So once again the automobile replaced the horse in a transportation job.

After the color guard arrived and the national anthem was played, the day



***Ron Siegrist's 1966 Cadillac Eldorado arriving at the opening ceremony at the monument circle with Maryland's First Lady Kathleen O'Mally, Flowermart Executive Director Carol Purcell, and Board Member Jay Perry; followed by Boots Petrucci driving her 1964 Corvair. Below: Mary Allen always gets into the Flowermart spirit with a fancy hat.***



got into full swing with crowds of spectators buying plants, flowers, and collectibles from more than 125 booths. And all day spectators paraded past our cars, admiring and inspecting them, and asking questions.

As usual, there were continuous performances on two stages at the same time – a variety of instrumental and vocal music groups, dancers, comedy acts, and other entertainers. Some of the performances had active audience participation. On Friday there were three different hat contests, each with several categories. If you didn't bring a flowered hat from home, you could buy one. Another annual event was the Hilda May Snoops Art Contest, which encourages visual arts among middle school children. Plus there were organ recitals and tours of the Walters Art Museum.

For hungry spectators, there were several excellent food booths with crab cakes and the usual hamburgers and sandwiches; plus that Flowermart delicacy – the Lemonstick. Our members were treated to a box lunch that was delicious and quite filling.

Club members at the Flowermart were: Mary & Ed Allen, Alan Aronson, Carrie & Dave Benson, Buzz Diehl, Anne & Tom Kenney, Lois & John Krupinsky, Boots & Art Petrucci, Doris Phelps, Jerry Ross, Ted Schneider, Julie & Ron Siegrist, Henry Ver Valen, and Evelyn & Pat Wenderoth.

*See the Classy Chassie Car Show on the next page >>*





## Classy Chassie Car Show – May 2, 2008



*Displayed on the east plaza of the Washington Monument Square – the top row from left to right: Dave Benson's 1957 Thunderbird, Jerry Ross' 1954 Kaiser Manhattan, Henry Ver Valen's 1953 Jaguar; second row: Tom Kenney's 1955 DeSoto, John Krupinsky's 1955 Ford Crown Victoria, Ed Allen's 1957 Chevrolet; third row: Ron Siegrist's 1966 Cadillac Eldorado, Pat Wenderoth's 1928 Studebaker, Boots Petrucci's 1964 Corvair; fourth row: Julius Zulver's 1979 Rolls Royce, Doris Phelps' 1950 Cadillac, Harry Miller's 1957 Jaguar; fifth row: Buzz Diehl's 1966 Pontiac, Ted Schneider's 1983 Oldsmobile Toronado, and Al Aronson's 1967 Rolls Royce.*