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Another Fine Day Strolling Through Ladew Topiary Gardens

By Jerry Gordon

One of the more pleasant events on the Chesapeake Region's calendar is our annual visit to Ladew Topiary Gardens, located in Monkton, MD. On Sunday, August 24th, the Club experienced a really nice day with great weather, fairly warm without August's typical humidity. Promotion of the car show by the Club and the Ladew Gardens staff resulted in a noticeable increase of spectator traffic compared with recent years.

There was a large group of members who set up their seating under the giant spreading oak tree in the Manor House's front courtyard. From this base, many of us could stroll through the gardens and also access the guided tours through the Ladew Manor House.

Both the gardens and the Manor House (c. 1747) located on this 22-acre site are on the National Register of Historic Places. The gardens include more than one-hundred well-maintained topiary forms, which are the centerpieces in the twenty-seven themed gardens, among them – Victorian, Water Lily, Tivoli House, Keyhole, Rose, and Temple of Venus to name a few. And then there's the world famous hunt scene with a hunter on a horse that is jumping a fence behind the hounds, who are chasing a fox – all of which are wonderful topiary forms.

It seems that each of the Club's events

has a combination of participating cars including those that we see at many other events during the year and some that are either new acquisitions or only brought to a select few events. **Dave Benson's 1964 Lincoln Continental convertible** is a new acquisition. Dave says that he always had a yearning for one of Lincoln's slab-sided design

wouldn't sell him the car unless Dave looked it over first. Lucky for Dave, one of his sons lives in Rockford Illinois, so he went to see the car and reported that it was OK, and a deal was finalized. Dave's son drove the Continental to Rockford, where it waited for a car transport to pick it up for shipment to Maryland.



Shown in the Ladew historic Manor House courtyard from left to right: Bob Peirce's 1955 Buick, John Krupinsky's 1940 Ford, and John Gambo's 1961 Metropolitan.

Continental four-door convertibles. Being a member of the Lincoln Continental Owner's Club (he has three other Lincolns), Dave has been able to find out about available cars that other Lincoln enthusiasts around the country have for sale. This '64 Continental was located in a rural area of Illinois, but it seemed like what he was looking for. He contacted the owner and finally negotiated a deal, except the owner

The '64 is a big car with a 126 inch wheelbase that provides a lot of interior space. It is powered by a 430 CI V-8. With only 53K miles on the odometer, it is almost like new. The paint was redone in 1998, and the interior is original. The bumpers have been re-chromed and the top is new. An interesting feature of the top is that there is no

boot. When the top is taken down, the trunk lid, which is hinged at the back, lifts and the top retracts into the trunk for storage. Dave's 1964 Lincoln Continental is pictured on page 2.

Moving from the large luxury class to something more compact and sporty, **Doug Ehmann had his 1969 Corvette Stingray coupe** at the Ladew Show. As a youngster of 12 growing up in Michigan, one of Doug's neighbors, who worked for a GM related company, owned a '69 Corvette that Doug admired. He even had his picture taken with the car. His Corvette infatuation continued into adulthood and he finally

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Ladew Gardens – continued

purchased a local '69 Corvette in 1997. The car was pretty rough. But as Doug got into the restoration he found that it needed much more than he originally thought.

The four-year restoration turned into a body-off job that included even the replacement of the frame rails. Doug did most of the work himself, but had the paint done professionally. It is now an AACA Senior car.

This third-generation Mako Shark

Stingray 'Vette has the small block V-8 350 CI/350 HP performance engine and the side mounted exhaust pipe setup. Doug reports that the car is not a good daily driver because the gas MPG is in the single digits. But it sure looks and sounds great moving down the road.

Participating in the car show were: Carrie & Dave Benson, 1964 Lincoln; Todd & Matthew Carbaugh, 1968 Camaro; Doug Ehmann, 1969 Corvette; Rick & John Gambo, 1961 Metropolitan; Helen & Jerry Gordon, 1961 Cadillac; Angie & Ben Gugliuzza,

1955 Chevrolet; Ginny & Paul Habicht, 1959 Cadillac; David Hinton, 1965 Dodge; Lynn & John Horn, 1965 Thunderbird; David Humbert, 1962 Rolls Royce; Lois & John Krupinsky, 1940 Ford; Bob Lenio, 1959 DeSoto; Anna & Bob Peirce, 1955 Buick; Jerry Ross, 1954 Kaiser; Ted Schneider, 1983 Oldsmobile; Jeanette Scott, 1957 Thunderbird; T.W. Scott, 1966 Buick; Ruth & Jim Synodinos, 1933 Cadillac; and Larry & Jerry Wagner, 1956 Chevrolet. Margaret & Francis Werneth; and Linda & Tom Young came in modern cars.



On the left: Dave Benson's 1964 Lincoln Continental 4-door convertible



On the right: Doug Ehmann's 1969 Corvette Stingray coupe



On the left: Dave Benson's 1964 Lincoln had a start & run problem that brought help from (left, clockwise) Jim Synodinos, Jerry Gordon, Tom Young, Paul Habicht, and Dave Humbert.



On the right: Jim Synodino's 1933 Cadillac V-12



On the left: Jeanette Scott's 1957 T-Bird next to Bill Garvin's 2004 T-Bird

On the right: the famous topiary hunt scene with the hunter & hounds chasing the fox



Sponsor's Choice trophy presented by Sophie Wittesberger to Ruth & Jim Synodinos for their 1933 Cadillac