Ladew Car Show - A Great Event Despite The Weather

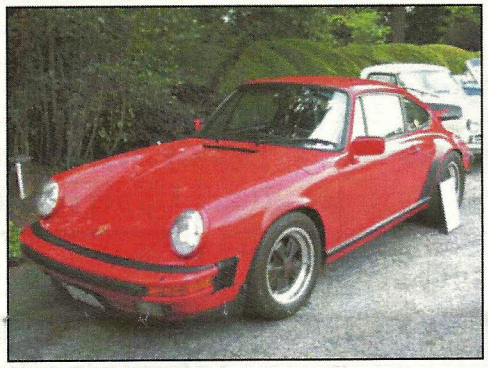
By Ruth Synodinos
Photos By Buzz Diehl

The Club's traditional late August antique car show at Ladew Topiary Gardens – an elegant and beautiful place – was well attended despite threatening weather. The popularity of this show with antique and sports car buffs was proven again when 34 cars showed up on Sunday the 21st.

There was an interesting mix of cars parked on the circle in front of the Ladew mansion and on the entry driveway. Henry Ver Valen's 1929 REO Flying Cloud sedan was the oldest. Also, there were six sports cars, including Randy Moss' 1986 Ferrari and Doug Ehmann's 1984 Porsche 911; plus Eric Hansen's 1943 Willys MB Jeep.

Ladew Topiary Gardens had it's origin in 1929 when Harvey Ladew was attracted to the area because of the excellent terrain for fox hunting. Ladew bought a farmhouse that was upgraded over ten years into what is now the mansion on the 22 acre property. The gardens were added as landscaping and evolved into 15 themed areas with an amazing variety of topiaries.

Shown above is the Sponsor's Choice award winning 1947 Lincoln Continental owned by Carri & Dave Benson. Dave is on the right accepting the trophy from Ladew's Visitor Services and Marketing Coordinator Barbara Barnoff.



Shown above from the left: Doug Ehmann's 1984 Porsche & Randy Moss' 1986 Ferrari.

Everyone who attends this car show enjoys walking through the gardens. Even if you've been to Ladew many times, you can find new experiences in the gardens. And it should be noted, Ladew is run by a large staff of volunteers who are docents and also tend to the gardens and grounds.

I provided the show with my usual rain protection by placing an upside down open umbrella by one of the many trees. That certainly worked for awhile, but we finally had to cut the show a little short around 2 PM when the Ladew staff advised us that the radar showed rain coming up fast. Parking help was provided by Gary Wilmer and Bud Currey.

Members who participated in the show not already mentioned were: Marcy & Chuck Talbert, 1939 Ford; Al Sandler, 1966 Buick; Russ Baer, 1959 Alfa Romeo; Dawson O'Neill + Zoeanne & Dan Denham, 1966 Ford; Gary Wilmer, 1985 Oldsmobile; Margaret & Francis Werneth, 1970 Chevrolet; Mildred & Al Lawson, 1963 Ford; Doug Kennedy, 1959 VW; Linda & Nick Prevas, 1964 Chevrolet; Julie & Ron Siegrist, 1966 Oldsmobile.

Also: Lois & John Krupinsky, 1964 Ford; George Spicka, 1969 Chevrolet; Bill Schmuck, 1956 Buick; Helen & Jerry Gordon, 1993 Mercury; Chris & John Young + Linda & Tom Young, 1986 Cadillac; Jim Turner, 1953 DeSoto; and Pat Wenderoth, 1964 Lincoln.

Shown from the left: Virginia & Paul Habicht's 1959 Cadillac & Bud Currey's 1959 Pontiac; the Club's Event Host Ruth Synodinos and her 1947 Cadillac.