

Enjoying Ladew Topiary Gardens In The Rain

By Bud Currey



We arrived for the annual Ladew Topiary Gardens car show on Sunday, July 29th having driven along the nearby country roads through intermittent rain showers. We figured at best having a brief visit with a couple of die-hard Club members and an early departure for a dry lunch someplace. The forecast was for more of the same weather through the afternoon. However, once inside Ladew Gardens we found several cars already parked around the circle at the entrance to the Manor House

So, we set up a command post under my portable awning. Between 11:30 and 1 PM, every so often another wet car arrived, until a total of 12 overall (a 13th car remained in it's trailer) were parked in the circle. It really wasn't wet enough for a washout of this event. Around 2 PM the rain stopped and we

had intermittent sun breakouts.

Because we needed rain, it seemed that no one really minded the slight inconvenience and everyone had a good time talking to the other participants, looking over the cars (a couple were WWII military jeeps), taking the garden walking tour, and going on the hourly manor house tours. Because of the weather, we pretty much had Ladew's facilities to ourselves. The Ladew staff, as usual, was really helpful in making sure that the car show and our tours of the grounds and buildings went smoothly. These people were really nice, even providing a covered golf cart to wisk us around the grounds when it was raining.

As the afternoon wore on we decided to wrap up the show early. The Sponsor's Choice selection was made by Ladew

Assistant Sarah Oktavec, who chose Angie & Ben Gugliuzza's 1955 Chevrolet because she liked the nice condition of the car. Then we distributed the dash plaques.

Members and guests participating amid the raindrops were: Carrie & Dave Benson, 1947 Lincoln Continental; Earle Benson, 1942 Ford Jeep; Kiyomi & Bob Buker + family, 1942 Ford Jeep; Bud Currey, 1965 Pontiac; Angie & Ben Gugliuzza, 1955 Chevrolet; Eric Hanson, 1967 Chrysler station wagon; Gail & Ben Harris, 1965 Mustang convertible; Richard Hiob; Stevie & Dave Humbert, 1962 Rolls Royce; Dave Kemper, 1970 Chevelle SS 396; Margaret & Jim Pfaff, 1957 Thunderbird; Ruth & Jim Synodinos, 1941 Packard 160; Todd, Andrew, Vicky & Gary Wilmer, 1973 Pontiac Firebird; and Linda & Tom Young.



Eric Hanson's 1967 Chrysler station wagon



Earle Benson's 1942 Ford Jeep



The Wilmer's 1973 Pontiac Firebird



In front of the Manor House, Bud Currey's 1965 Pontiac, Dave Benson's 1947 Lincoln, & Jim Synodinos' 1941 Packard



The Sponsor's Choice trophy awarded by Sarah Oktavec for Ben & Angie Gugliuzza's 1955 Chevrolet