

# A Cunningham Reunion

The show field hosted 33 of the 36 Cunningham cars built

Story and photos by Bill Rothermel



Best of Show — Sport — at Saturday's Concours Americana was Joe Robillard's 1952 Cunningham C-3 coupe by Vignale



A once-in-a-lifetime lineup of Cunninghams

## Details

**Plan ahead:** The 24th Annual Greenwich Concours d'Elegance is scheduled for June 1–2, 2019  
**Where:** Roger Sherman Baldwin Park, Greenwich, CT  
**Number of entries:** 185 cars and motorcycles  
**Cost:** \$40 for one day; \$60 for two days  
**Web:** [www.greenwichconcours.com](http://www.greenwichconcours.com)

The Greenwich Concours d'Elegance knocked one out of the ballpark for 2018. The veteran concours, now in its 23rd year, played host on June 1–3 to a Cunningham reunion that celebrated the cars of noted racer, car builder and America's Cup yachtsman Briggs Swift Cunningham.

Remarkably, 35 of the 36 cars Cunningham built remain alive today, and 33 were on the show field during Saturday's Americana and Sunday's International Concours.

This was one of those never-to-be-repeated moments in our lifetime. Credit goes to Cunningham owners and enthusiasts Tom Cotter and Chuck Schoendorf, along with SCM Contributor Miles Collier (who served as the weekend's grand marshal) and concours Chairperson Mary Wennerstrom, who oversaw the monumental effort.

In addition, Cunningham's personal schooner, Brilliant, arrived from the Mystic Seaport Museum. Sails were offered to Cunningham owners. Cunningham's 1958 America's Cup-winning yacht, Columbia, along with Brilliant, were moored adjacent to Roger Sherman Baldwin Park, site of the concours, during the weekend extravaganza.

Cotter, Schoendorf and Collier — along with Rich Taylor and Dr. Fred Simeone — provided a two-hour-plus retrospective on Cunningham during Friday evening's well-attended introductory seminar.

## John Fitch's cars and an eclectic lineup

Saturday's concours featured a class of cars from yet another noted racer and designer — John Fitch. On display were Charles Mallory's one-off 1966 Fitch Phoenix; Kevin Fear's all-original 1966 Olds Toronado Fitch Phantom; the 1962–68 Chevrolet Corvair Fitch Sprints of Fear, Mallory, and Byron LaMotte Jr.; and Richard Salzillo's unusual 1967 Pontiac Fitch Firebird.

Wennerstrom said 185 cars and motorcycles were on display each day — the most ever for the concours. She was pleased to report a record attendance of 13,000 for the two days.

Sunday's International Class offered an eclectic cadre of cars not typically seen at any concours.

Among the entrants were:

- Dmitri Shvestsov's meticulous Volga GAZ M21V sedan
- The Levethan Family's 1961 Renault Caravelle convertible
- Bruce and Lori Turk's 1963 Saab 95 Estate (complete with tailfins)
- Christopher Turner's 1963 VW Type 34
- Harold Shettle's 1972 Saab 95 wagon
- The Alpine A110 1600S VC Berlinette of Chris Robins

- Roman Grudin's 1982 VAZ 21033 sedan
- When have you last seen any of these cars — if ever?

## Award winners

American Best of Show — Elegance — was the stunning 1934 Packard Twelve Individual Custom Convertible Victoria by Dietrich owned by Judge Joseph and Margie Cassini.

Best of Show — Sport was given to the 1952 Cunningham C-3 coupe by Vignale from Joseph Robillard's garage.

Sunday's International Best of Show — Sport — was presented to Scuderia N.E. International's 1957 Ferrari 335 Sport Spider Scaglietti. Best of Show — Elegance honors went to Colin Seid and Richard Annis' 1935 Jaguar SS1 Tourer.

"Seeing the smiles on everyone's faces throughout the weekend was the highlight for me," Wennerstrom said.

Mark your calendars for the next Greenwich Concours d'Elegance, as this spring ritual is worth attending. ♦



Rarely seen: Bruce and Lori Turk's 1963 Saab 95 Estate