

KENNEBEC VALLEY GARDEN CLUB  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 2, 2016  
VILES FOUNDATION

The regular meeting of the Kennebec Valley Garden Club was called to order by Sharon Ann Paradis, President, at 1:00 pm at the Viles Foundation. There were 27 members and no guests present.

The Pledge of Allegiance, Gardener's Collect, and the Conservation Pledge was led by Molly Wickwire.

The minutes of the last meeting were distributed to the members electronically and adopted as received.

The following correspondence was read: 1. letter from Togus, VA thanking KVGC members for their hard work at the Hospice Memory Garden; 2. letter from the IRS stating that KVGC now has exempt status; 3. letter from Sharon Ann Paradis, KVGC President, to the Viles Foundation asking if the William Viles stone and the soon-to-be-obtained Elsie Viles stone could be placed at the Viles Foundation; and 4. a return letter from Patsy West, Director of the Viles Foundation, declining our offer of placing the above stones at the Viles Foundation.

Sharon Ann commented on the poor turnout for events and participation of club members. It was noted by Penny Pray that standing rule #7 of the club states "all active members shall participate in or make a donation to the major fund raisers of the club." Sharon Ann quoted from bylaws Article VIII Membership, section 5, Active Member letter c. must serve as a committee chair or member. Members were encouraged to join a committee if they were not already participating.

KVGC info can be found on the internet under [www.kennebecvalleygardenclub.org](http://www.kennebecvalleygardenclub.org). Go to for-members-only. Sign in using kvgc2016 and the password pinecone. Please keep this information for your records.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Current balance at Kennebec Savings Bank \$41, 001.55.  
T-shirts remain available for \$10 and aprons for \$12.

**AWARDS:**

The president explained the awards at the head table, which were received at the GCFM Annual Convention in June: The Stephanie Ann Smith Traveling Trophy for Garden Therapy (Silver Plate) awarded for the best active garden therapy program and the Phyllis C. Lewis Traveling Trophy ( Silver Pitcher in a Wooden Case) for club that develops the best program for children to promote interest in any facet of nature, horticulture or conservation.

Hope Weston noted that the convention was sparsely attended by KVGC members. Life Membership certificates and red roses were given to Hope Weston and Barbara Patterson, for their many years of active service.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Conservation chair Ann Thomas distributed handouts and spoke about using a rain barrel to collect water for use on our gardens. She also spoke about the drop in water levels at Lake Meade in Arizona, which is now at its lowest level since the 1930's due to drought and water diversions along the Colorado River. "Groundwater withdrawals account for more than 75% of the 17 trillion gallons of water lost...since 2004." A "shocking" development which may have "dire consequences" for "40 million people in 7 states."

Garden Therapy chair Penny Pray spoke about the committees work at Togus VA. On September 17, 2016, Togus will mark the 150th year celebration of the very first VA in the country. The official birthday celebration is planned for November 11, 2016.

Shelly Hanson will be applying for a GCFM award for the work at the Togus Hospice Memorial Garden. (CORRECTION: Kathleen Marty is forwarding the GCFM award application submitted by Shelly for KVGC's Garden Therapy program, which received the Stephanie Ann Smith Traveling Trophy, to the New England Region.)

Karen Foster stated that the theme at Windsor Fair this year is "Whimsical Gardens." Please drop off items on Friday August 26th from 10-12 pm at the fairgrounds or contact Karen for assistance.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ellen Jackson reported that on the day of our garden tour at least 72 people visited the gardens. Of note, a letter to the editor was seen in the Kennebec Journal complementing the garden tour.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

GCFM Fall Conference is to be held on Monday, October 31, 2016, at the Augusta Civic Center. Registration forms are available from Sharon Ann. Registration fee is \$30 prior to October 21st and \$45 after October 21st.

Ann Thomas moved that proposed bylaw amendment Article VIII - Membership - Section 3 be adopted. The amendment was adopted.

The chair moved to amend Article X - Committees, letter c. Barrows Scholarship Committee, and add letter v Website committee, adopted.

The chair also moved to amend Standing Rule #4 so that it would then read “A deceased member will be honored with a living memorial which may be planted at the discretion of the family with regard to location, \$50.00 will be appropriated from the savings account for this purpose.” The motion was adopted.

Ellen Jackson chair of the Ways and Means Committee reported that the soup and bread sale at Longfellow’s Greenhouses in Manchester will be held on Saturday, October 1st from 10-2 pm. All members are urged to participate in this very important fund raiser.

A proposed Fall Festival and Plant Sale will be held Saturday, October 8th (Columbus weekend) from 9-3pm at the Viles Foundation. She suggested the following ideas: white elephant table, orchard tour, membership table, sale of honey, soaps, bulbs and pumpkins. It was also suggested that we have live demonstrations of fall arrangements and/or have dried flowers for sale. Call Ellen Jackson if you have any other ideas.

It was noted that the Blaine House decorating committee will meet on October 8th, decorating will be Tuesday, November 29th at 9 am, and the Tea will be Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Barbara Patterson volunteered to be the chair and her theme is “A Old Fashioned Holiday.” (CORRECTION: The Blaine House decorating committee will meet on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 9 am at the Blaine House. Decorating will be done on Tuesday, December 6th.)

Shelly Hanson suggested placing a Blue Star Marker at the new Veteran's Cemetery. This needs approval from the Veteran's Administration at both the state and federal levels and Shelly will speak with Linda Redman GCFM Chair of the Blue Star Marker Committee. (CORRECTION: Ann Thomas commented on Shelly Hanson’s suggestion of placing a Blue Star Marker at the new Veteran’s Cemetery. It was suggested that we ask Shelly to speak with Linda Redman.)

Karen Foster received a call from Paul Arbour of Glenridge Nursing Home requesting assistance with some raised beds. On hold until spring.

The next meeting will be held on September 13th at the Vaughn Estate in Hallowell at 1pm.

Meeting was adjourned by Sharon Ann at 2:30 pm.

An ice cream social followed, which was enjoyed by all.

Secretary, Rose Leavitt