

KENNEBEC VALLEY GARDEN CLUB  
REGULAR MEETING  
4 October 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 23 members present plus 2 guests and our speaker.

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

Debbie Sherman introduced her guest Nancy Rigdon of Boise, Idaho and now of Richmond. Snooky LaVallee introduced her guest Coral Graham of Arizona.

New member Linda Bragg was introduced.

Today's speaker Linda Hartkopf of Hart-to-Hart Farm was introduced.

The minutes of the last meeting were distributed to the members electronically and accepted as presented.

There was no new correspondence since our last meeting.

TREASURERS REPORT - Pam Johnson:

Premier business account	\$ 506.50
Garden Club Savings	24,435.45
Love Fund Savings	193.48
Barrows Scholarship Savings	9,387.54
Barrows CD	4,804.82
 Total	 \$ 39,327.79

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Soup Sale - Ellen Jackson:

Approximately \$600 clear profit was made selling cups of soup with bread. There were no bowls of soup sold this year. A thank you note was sent to Longfellow's.

Harvest Festival - Ellen Jackson:

To be held Saturday Oct 8<sup>th</sup> at Viles Arboretum from 9:00 am -3:00 pm. A tent will be set up Friday afternoon. Floral designs will be made at 11:00 am and at 1:00 pm by Shelly Hanson and

Karen Foster. There will be pumpkin painting for children. Plants are to be dropped off in the morning with naming labels and pictures (if possible) or descriptions. There will also be a white elephant table to include tools, vases, cards and etc.

Ann Thomas made a **MOTION** that we be allowed to sell the bottles and vases in the Viles barn at the Harvest Festival and if unsold, to be given to nursing homes. Motion was seconded and adopted by membership.

Garden Therapy - Penny Pray:

Ryan Libby, Togus VA Center Director awarded the KVGC a picture and certificate of appreciation for the work our members contributed to the Hospice Garden at Togus VA.

Remembrance Bench - Penny Pray:

The William Viles stone from the Garden Park and Elsie's new stone will be utilized flanking the Tribute bench at the Viles Arboretum in the Oak Grove to be part of the Bench Project. The cost for this will be \$5,000, not the \$10,000 previously approved amount. The building barn with pavers/stone will be placed there. It will be exciting in the spring to see this all done and look forward to sharing it with the other members of the Garden Club. This Tribute bench will recognize all past, present, and future club members for their dedication to gardening in the surrounding communities.

A note was sent to Mark DesMeules at the Viles Arboretum thanking him for taking Penny, Sharon, and Shelly out to the Oak Grove to see the area of the Bench Project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Blaine House - Barbara Patterson:

The theme of this year's Blaine House holiday decorations will be "An Old Fashioned Holiday." We will be using tinsel, icicles, crystal balls, cranberries, and popcorn. Invitations are available today at the meeting - please see Ann Thomas. Remember to make your reservations as only 75 persons are allowed per session, including our members. See Penny Pray regarding tea/coffee pourers and assist greeters.

Blaine House Committee planning session will be held October 11th at 9:30 am - 11:00 am. Workers are needed for the formal dining room and the sun room. The Blaine House will provide another coat rack for the pool room.

GCFM Fall Conference:

October 31st at the Augusta Civic Center. Registration is 8:30 am - 9:15 am. Molly will bring invitations to the Fall Conference.

NEW BUSINESS:

It was decided to elect the three members of the Nominating Committee today instead of waiting until the November meeting because of the large attendance. The committee needs to nominate a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary for the next two years

Ann Thomas nominated Penny Pray, who declined as she was on the committee previously. Julie Meagher was nominated and accepted. Sally St. Pierre-Gilbault and Shirlene Gosline offered to be on this committee. Ann Thomas **MOVED** that nominations for the Nominating Committee cease. This was seconded and adopted by membership.

The next meeting will be November 1<sup>st</sup> at the Viles Foundation at 1:00 pm. Jim Keenan will speak on "Wreaths Across America." A workshop will follow to make wreaths for the Blue Star Markers and these wreaths will be placed shortly after the meeting.

Hostesses Karen Foster, Jan Karczewski, Mary Blouin and Lorraine Philbrick were thanked by the president for providing today's refreshments.

Our Program speaker Linda Hartkopf of Hart-to-Hart Farm spoke at length about her farm camp, including our scholarship camper experience. She was a first time camper. This is a working farm in Albion, Maine of approximately 130 head of organic dairy milkers that contributes its milk to Stoneyfield Yogurt. The campers come to this day camp for an 8 week period with one overnight. Children come back again and again, some for multiple weeks. Occasionally, students continue on and join the Junior Counselor program. On their last day they have a Parade of the Animals, showing what they have learned about "their" animal. Their families join in the fun on this last day.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm

Rose Leavitt, Secretary