

2017 Kennebec Valley Garden Club Committee Reports

Archives/Properties

No report from this committee

Awards

No report from this committee

Barrows Scholarship

Barrows Fund Scholarship Committee

Annual Report - June 6, 2017

Chair: Julie Meagher

Members: Sue Bourne, Joan Hague, Cynthia Herrick, Ann Thomas

Barrows Scholarship Fund

During the month of January, a cover letter and scholarship application forms were mailed to High School guidance offices in Kennebec County. Application forms were also mailed to four College / University financial aid offices. A notice of the scholarship was placed in the local newspaper by the publicity committee. A notice was also placed on the club's Facebook page.

The deadline was for April 28, 2017.

The committee chair received 6 applications for the Barrows Scholarship. The committee decided on two repeat applicants. Kevin Frankhauser (UMO) and Raquel Gibbs (Husson University) who are receiving \$1000.00 each. To be sent after the completion of the 2017 Fall semester with proof of transcript and registration for the Spring semester.

An Award letter was mailed to both students. Letters of denial were mailed to the four other applicants telling them what was missing from their application packet to disqualify them from consideration for the scholarship.

Respectfully submitted

Julie Meagher Barrows Scholarship Fund Chair

Birds and Wildflowers

BIRDS AND WILDFLOWERS COMMITTEE REPORT

After spending winter months filling bird feeders with sunflower seed, I now spend time these spring days filling hummingbird feeders with the sugar/water mix and oriole feeders with oranges and grape jelly. I wondered why the jelly disappeared so fast until I discovered that the rose-breasted grosbeaks like it too! I have been

through a big jar of jelly and it is only the beginning of June. **Remember for hummingbirds: Mix 4 parts water to 1 part white granulated sugar, boil and cool, no food coloring, no artificial sweeteners, clean feeder OFTEN with white vinegar. Barbara Patterson reports that her garden is doing very well, and it really enjoys all the rain we have been having this spring. She is, however, looking for Silver King or Silver Queen and has not been able to locate either one. Can anyone help her out? If they are invasive plants, that may be the reason they are unavailable. Her rhododendrons are gorgeous – a lovely deep pink and a white. Some time ago her azalea plant died but had sprouted shoots. Now those three azalea shoots are six feet tall and quite wide. In spring the flowers are a very light pink. In the fall the foliage is deep red/orange – right in tune with the season. The arrival of spring brings the arrival of the great blue herons and the loons. There is nothing quite as eerie as the call of the loon on a foggy morning. Debbie Sherman does the annual loon count every July, and this year alone Maranacook Lake has seen an increase in loons, plus two pairs of nesting eagles, along with a rookery of great blue heron. Debbie is a member of the Audubon Society. She does speaking engagements and will present a program for KVGC in the coming year. If you are not familiar with a magazine called *Birds & Blooms*, I highly recommend it. The photography is amazing, stories from the editors and the readers are very interesting, and it's full of information – tips about observing, attracting, and feeding birds, as well as raising and caring for and displaying flowers of all varieties. There are also articles on vegetables and butterflies. Check it out. I think you'll enjoy it.

-Cynthia Herrick

Blue Star Highways

Blue Star Highway Committee Report June 2017

I place a bow on the Blue Star Memorial Marker in Hallowell every year. A new bow of red, white, and blue colored ribbon is placed so it will be fresh for Armed Forces Day in May. Throughout the year I check to see that the bow remains attached and the area around the marker is free of weeds and litter. Karen Foster also placed a ribbon on the marker at the veteran's cemetery in Augusta. She too checks the marker periodically to see that the area is cared for. The plants around the marker that were donated by the district and planted by Heide Munro and Julie Meagher are doing well. In November the Blue Star Memorial Committee provided a meeting for our club. The speaker was Jim Keenan, a participant in Wreaths Across America, and he told us the history and purpose of his organization. Two wreaths were made at the meeting that was placed at the two memorials. Karen Foster dedicated both of the wreaths with a brief talk.

Respectfully submitted,
Coral Garrison, Karen Foster
Blue Star Highway Committee

Bylaws

Report of the Bylaws Chairman

On 4 April 2017, this chairman read the bylaw amendment regarding the Civic Activities and Garden Therapy Committee by making it two committees. The Civic Activities Committee would promote any planned activity which leads to community improvement and the Garden Therapy Committee would share gardening knowledge and skills with those who have special needs, work with staff members at nursing homes to assist in their floral, horticultural, and other therapeutic programs. The amendment was adopted.

Ann P. Thomas, Chairman

Civic Activities

Kennebec Valley Garden Club Civic Activities Annual Meeting June 6, 2017

Current Civic Gardens

Cohen Center	Completed
Hubbard Free Library	Completed
Glenridge	Completed
MGMC	Needs replacement perennial only
Viles Arboretum	Pending ground prep by staff. Civic Committee will replant existing plants once the ground is prepared.

New Garden Requests

Kennebec Valley Historical

Nancy Voisine and Penny Pray met with Phyllis at the KV Historical Society on May 3, 2017 to walk their property on 107 Winthrop Street in Augusta to evaluate and discuss their requested project of the cleaning and creation of a **Hosta Garden** on the West bank of the property that lines the driveway which is approximately 100 feet.

- The West bank will be cleared and prepared for planting by a contractor.

- There are some Hostas already there that will be dug up and divided and placed in a holding area pending planting.
- They will seek out donations of additional Hostas, Penny suggested contacting Bernie Slopher.
- The garden will not be ready to plant until after June 1.

Advised that we could not make a commitment until reviewed and voted on by the Civic Committee.

The Children's Center

Our usual work on the Butterfly Garden at The Children's Center was put on hold last fall in anticipation of playground construction this spring. However, Jeff Johnson, their executive director, requested we come by to evaluate the property and look at their playground plans for planting suggestions and placement. Nancy Voisine and Penny Pray met with Jeff on May 23, 2017, reviewed their playground plans and walked the property which is under major construction. The playground plan shows placement of playground equipment for the different age groups and ability levels, however doesn't not show any plant or tree placements. We did discuss different plants, bushes and trees and looked at plantings already on the property that could be moved. There is a need for a privacy hedge or tree planting along one side of what will be the "quiet garden" to buffer against the neighboring homes.

This project will be completed in phases. It is anticipated that Phase 1 will be major plantings such as trees and shrubs. The playground should be ready for planting by late summer or early fall. Phase 2 will be the planting of perennials and other small plant materials, which may not be until the spring of 2018.

Again, no commitment was made to The Children's Center until this request is brought to the Civic Committee for review and vote.

This is a major project, even though we would not actually be planting the materials, we would be making major decisions on large stock such as trees and shrubs. It would be my opinion that Phase 1 would be better left to professionals such as an arborist and bringing the Garden Club in for Phase 2.

Summary

The current Civic Gardens that are maintained by the Garden Club seem to be ready for the 2017 growing season with the exception of Viles Arboretum which I will follow up with and plan. Going forward with new requests, I believe it will be the decisions of the new committee as it forms in June. At this point it is unknown who will be volunteering on the Civic Committee and who will be the new Chair, these new request should be theirs to consider.

I have enjoyed chairing this committee and being a part of the greater Augusta community, however, I look forward to spending time on other Garden Club projects. Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Voisine, Civic Activities Chair

Communications

There has been no activity with the Communications Committee.

Ann P. Thomas, Chairman

Conservation

There has been no activity with the Conservation Committee.

Ann P. Thomas, Chairman

Finance

No report from this committee

Horticulture

Horticulture Committee Report June 2017

The Kennebec Valley Garden Club Horticulture Committee prepared a listing of gardening tips which are included in the Yearbook shared with all the members. This year a short gardening poem was added to hopefully encourage and inspire efforts in our gardens.

The skillful work of the Program Committee in cooperation with Horticulture provided several programs/workshops which expanded our knowledge of ways to improve our gardening success.

Nancy B. Hill

Horticulture Chairman

Hostess

No report from this committee

Legislative

No report from this committee

Love Fund/Memorial

No report from this committee

Membership

Kennebec Valley Garden Club
Membership Report
June 6, 2017

We have had 6 new members join the club since last June, welcome to new members and look forward to having them join us:

Sally Stone, Winthrop
Louise Perry, Vassalboro
Judy Gates-Kilpatrick, Monmouth
Rhonda Bolduc, South China
Linda Bragg, Sidney
Carolyn Perry, Windsor

Requests for membership applications and information have been sent out to a number of people potentially interested in joining the club, but to date have not heard back from anyone. Membership information was also available at the soup sale and plant sales.

There is interest out there and it would be nice to find a way to attract new members and have them attend meetings, I am open to any suggestions anyone may have.

Shelly Hanson
Membership Chair

Nominating

The following officers were elected for the 2017-2019 term:

President, Ellen Jackson; Vice President, Debbie Sherman; Secretary, Shelly Hanson and Treasurer, Pam Johnson.

Program

No report from this committee

Publicity

No report from this committee

Publicity Press Book

No report from this committee

Resolutions

No report from this committee

Ways and Means

No report from this committee

Website

The GCFM website area for KVGC has been kept up to date with meeting dates, times and speakers.

The Kennebec Valley Garden Club website allows members to access information about the club in one place. There is a special members only area with a password sign in where members can read the meeting minutes, see the spring and fall newsletters, fill in an expense voucher, see the bylaws and look at the current member list. Other areas of the website include: meeting times and places, Barrows Scholarship information where an application can be downloaded, a photo gallery [still under construction], how to become a member with an application that can be filled out online and a useful links tab that has links to the National Garden Club, Garden Club Federation of Maine, the New England Regional website and KVGC's Facebook page.

Sharon Ann Paradis, Webmistress

Yearbook

Kennebec Valley Garden Club

Yearbook Report

June 6, 2017

The annual yearbook was prepared following National and GCFM guidelines and submitted for the National Yearbook Award. Yearbooks were available for members at the September 2016 meeting, and members not attending were mailed their copies. Members are encouraged to attend the September meeting to pick up yearbook to save on the expense of having to mail them.

Work is slowly underway to prepare the new yearbook for 2017-2018 and hopefully will be available at the September meeting. Since this year is a change in administration, not only our club, but at the State and National level as well, it makes

it difficult to gather all of the new information in a timely manner. It takes more time to get the new information of committee members, programs, hostesses. I would like to think this process of compiling information could be changed to doing it during the winter months while everyone is looking for something to do rather than in the middle of summer when everyone is busy.

Shelly Hanson
Yearbook Co-Chair

Youth Activities

Kennebec Valley Garden Club School Year 2016-2017 Youth Outreach Activities Report Respectfully Submitted by Anya F. Goldey May 9, 2017

During the 2016-2017 school year, the Kennebec Valley Garden Club's Youth Outreach Committee delivered four presentations to youth at Stepping Stones Montessori School in Chelsea, Maine. For each presentation topic, separate presentations were made to lower elementary youth (grades first through third) and the upper elementary and middle school youth (grades fourth through eighth). There were approximately 65 youth across first through eighth grades who participated.

The first presentation occurred in October 2016, and it was entitled *Bring on the Brassica (Cole) Vegetables!* Students learned about the member vegetables of the brassica family, and how each was introduced in our country. Also, they learned how almost all parts of some species of brassica have been developed for foods including the **root** (rutabaga, turnips), **stems** (kohlrabi), **leaves** (cabbage, collard greens), **flowers** (cauliflower, broccoli), **buds** (Brussels sprouts, cabbage), and **seeds** (mustard seed and canola, among others). The highlight of the presentation was a taste test of broccoli, kale chips, cauliflower, radish, turnip and rutabaga.. Students used an observation chart and all their senses, including taste, to describe the vegetables as they filled out their own chart.



During mid-December, the *Powerful Potato* presentation was delivered. The anatomy, lifecycle and interesting facts about the potato were discussed. Youth learned about growing and harvesting potato plants. For the hands-on activities, youth first witnessed a potato osmosis experiment, and then the hand-carved potatoes as stamps to create an original art piece.



The third presentation, the *Art of Growing*, was made during March 2017. Youth learned about the history of seed companies, seed packets, growing zones, how plants can be natural insect/animal repellents, and then each child planted several marigold seeds. The seedlings sprouted in the classroom, and youth were able to make plant observations prior to bringing their seedling home.



Finally, during May 2017, the youth outreach volunteers returned to the school for a final school year visit. During this time, youth learned all about preparing your gardens for spring planting. Youth created bird feeders from recycled materials (pine cones and cardboard toilet paper rolls). The group then moved outside to clean out the school gardens beds, prepare the beds, and to transplant vegetable and flower seedlings.

