

KENNEBEC VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Tuesday, October 2, 2018

Viles Arboretum, 153 Hospital Street, Augusta, Maine

On October 2, 2018, Kennebec Valley Garden Club members along with GCFM State President Judith Tarbox, Hope Weston, KVGC Garden Club member since 1936, David Rollins, Mayor, City of Augusta, Mark DesMeules, Director of the Viles Arboretum, and other guests gathered at the Viles Arboretum to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Kennebec Valley Garden Club. The Garden Club was formed in June of 1928.

Sharon Ann Paradis and Ann Thomas gathered garden club photos and created Burma shave signs to place along the pathway leading members and guests to the Oak Grove. The signs were enlarged photos of events over the years. Photos included many of the club activities - where it all began, the past, the present and the future - the Vaughn Homestead where meetings were first held, flower shows, plant sales, garden tours, holiday decorating of the Blaine House, the Viles Home where meetings are now held and the natural stone "Tribute Bench".

A brief dedication ceremony of the Tribute Bench was held with GCFM President Judith Tarbox giving the welcome, thanking KVGC for its community services over the past 90 years; Mayor David Rollins reading a proclamation to the club from the City of Augusta; and Mark DesMeules thanking the club for donating the bench and its community service over the years. Mark also commented that the bench will provide a place for visitors to sit, relax and reflect and has observed many visitors stopping to sit. The Tribute Bench is intended to acknowledge all past, present and future members of the Kennebec Valley Garden Club for their dedication to gardening in the surrounding communities.

Following the ceremony members and guests gathered back at the visitor's center for refreshments and visit. Laura Boyett made a delicious hand-decorated chocolate cake for all to enjoy.

Submitted by,
Shelly Hanson
Secretary