

Kennebec Valley Garden Club



Spring 2016 Newsletter

President: Sharon Ann Paradis Vice President: Debbie Sherman
Secretary: Rosemary Leavitt Treasurer: Pamela Johnson

Spring Greetings from our President

It was a busy winter for your president, with the help of our treasurer, Pam Johnson, we were able to complete the application to hopefully restore our 501 c 3 non-profit status with the IRS. It was a lengthy application with dozens of supporting documents necessary, mailed on Feb. 8th, received by the IRS on Feb. 11th and the \$400 check was cashed on March 2nd. Now we wait.

An application for a youth activities award was submitted in Jan. by Shelly Hanson to NGC. Wanda Hendrickson submitted the KVGC pressbook in Jan. as well. Your president submitted applications for Club of Distinction, Kathleen Marty - Civic Development, Phyllis C Lewis - Youth Activities and Stephanie Ann Smith - Garden Therapy to GCFM in April.

Bylaws were reviewed and amendments were accepted by the members at the April 5th meeting, including a necessary dues increase. Dues are now \$20 per year and due by the end of June. Please see the dues notice at the bottom of the last page of this newsletter. For your convenience you can cut it off and send it to Pam Johnson with your check.

D R Struck completed the work at the Kennebec Valley Garden Club Park in late October, digging up all of the entrance gardens, re-planting and mulching. The next park work day is Tuesday, April 26th at 9:00 AM, there is trash from the winter that needs to be picked up.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

April. 25 : GCFM Board of Directors Meeting: Viles Foundation 9 AM

May 17: Kennebec District Annual Meeting: Calzolaio Pasta Company Restaurant, Main St., Wilton
9:30 AM

June 14- 16: GCFM Convention: Bar Harbor Atlantic Oceanside Hotel see the GCFM website for full details

June 25: KVGC Garden Tour

GCFM Fall Conference

This years Fall conference was held on Oct. 27th at the Augusta Civic Center. It was a very well attended conference with the theme "Taking Care of Your Selfie". KVGC members helped with registration, sales, and raffles. The two guest speakers: Dr. Timothy Howe, an Internist with Parkview Hospital and founder of the Lifestyle Choices Program spoke about healthy soil, healthy people and benefits of plant based diets. The afternoon speaker was Paul Dobbins, President of Ocean Approved, who spoke on the benefits of seaweed and kelp, offering seaweed salad samples to members.

Honoring Veterans

On Nov. 3rd our guest speaker, Dave Richmond, shared wonderful stories of Veterans. After the presentation some of the members helped make two wreaths to be placed at the Blue Star Markers at: Arnold Look-out in Hallowell and the Maine Veterans Cemetery in Augusta.

On Nov. 6th members: Karen Foster, Sue Borne, Coral Garrison, Debbie Sherman, Joan Hague, and Nancy Troop helped in placing the wreaths at the markers. It was wonderful to also have some Veterans present during the wreath laying.



Holiday Coffee & Tea at the Blaine House



The theme this year for decorating the Blaine House was "Children's Winter Wonderland". Wanda Hendrickson and Nancy Voisine were co-chairs and they did a fantastic job selecting the theme. On Dec. 1st members gathered and turned the Blaine House into a magical and awe inspiring wonderland. On Dec. 8th our club hosted a morning coffee and afternoon tea which drew a large crowd. GCFM President, Suzanne Bushnell and Kennebec District Director, Debra Burnham were in attendance and remarked what a great job all the KVGC members did. It was a very well received event. Thank you all for making it a special occasion and one the guests will remember.

2016

There were no meetings in January or February. However, many who were not away to warmer places met in February for a "Cabin Fever Reliever Pot Luck Luncheon" at the Viles Arboretum.

On March 1st members gathered at Longfellow's Greenhouse to learn about varieties of succulents.

The next KVGC meeting is Tuesday, May 3rd at 1:00PM at the Viles Foundation, the speaker will be Matt Gauthier on Hydrangeas.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Barrows Scholarship: Tammy Costigan and Debbie Sherman have notified all area schools regarding the scholarships offered. A couple responses are back and decisions will be made soon and announced at the annual meeting in June.

The Civic Development/Garden Therapy committee will be getting together soon to plan for getting gardens ready for spring. If you are interested in working on this committee please contact Nancy Voisine at 547-3951 or email nvoisin1@gmail.com

Plans for the KVGC Garden Tour are coming along well. More members are needed as hostesses at the various gardens, if you have not signed up for a time at a garden please contact Ellen Jackson or Sharon Ann Paradis to do so.

With tick season just getting started again here are a few recipes for chemical-free tick repellants, made with essential oils. Before using any of these please check with your physician to make sure that you are not taking any medicines that could cause a reaction and that you are not allergic to any of the ingredients. If you are planning to use these on a pet be sure to check with your veterinarian first, as some essential oils are not recommended for use directly on animals.

The easiest tick repellant is a drop of rose geranium oil. Most essential oils need to be diluted, but rose geranium does not fall into that category if used in small doses. So, because all you need is a few drops to do the job, a little most definitely goes a long way. Simply placing one drop on each ankle and on the wrists, then a little behind the knees and one on the back of the neck is all you will need to do the trick. Since dogs are extremely sensitive to smell, you will want to go easy on the oil for your canine friends. One drop behind each shoulder blade and at the top of the base of the tail. Be careful to avoid the face and nose; their sensitive sniffers can't handle anything too strong. There are two varieties of rose geranium oil. In order to get the most bang for your buck in repelling ticks, you want to find the one with the botanical name *Pelargonium capitatum x radens*. The more popular rose geranium oil under the name *Pelargonium graveolens* is from the same family, but not the same species.

Another recipe uses 20 drops each of lemongrass and eucalyptus oils in 4 ounces of water, put in a spray bottle shake well before using and spray on shoes, socks and pant cuffs. Supposed to be safe for humans and dogs.

Other essential oils such as lavender, lemongrass, citronella, eucalyptus, and cedar wood have all been found to be helpful in repelling these unwanted guests as well. Please check specific directions before using to ensure safety for dilution purposes. There are many more essential oil based insect repellent recipes on the internet. Again be sure to check with your physician or veterinarian before using essential oils directly on the skin.

Dues - It is not too early to pay your dues for 2016-2017. Annual dues are due at the annual meeting in June, but why not beat the rush and clip the section below and send to Pam, she will appreciate it!

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Make your check payable to KVGC and mail to Pam Johnson, KVGC Treasurer, 70 Purinton Avenue, Augusta, ME 04330.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Paid (check one):

\$20.00 Regular member \_\_\_\_\_ or \$25.00 Associate member \_\_\_\_\_