

## **RAPPAHANNOCK GARDEN CLUB MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

**March 10, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by President, Mary Hutya. The blessing was given by the president following the call to order.

**WELCOME:** The club welcomed guests of Cathie Elliott, Kathie and Joan Gibson who recently moved to the area from Massachusetts.

**THANK YOU:** Judges and Clerks were thanked for their service in connection with the Horticulture and Design Exhibits. Judges: Darlene Nelson from Chesapeake Bay Garden Club and Deborah Brooks. Clerks: Sheila Stepko and Helen Johnson.

**BIRTHDAYS:** Sharon Rowe, Kay Somers and Barbara Touchette were wished Happy Birthday.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Sadly, long time member Carol Shear passed away on February 25<sup>th</sup> after a long illness. She requested no funeral service be held and the burial be private. Our sympathy goes out to her family.

JoAnn Smith was congratulated on her 64<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Debbie Burgess and Cathie Elliott will attend and represent the RGC at the Piedmont District Meeting on March 21.

Members interested in attending the VFGC Convention, May 1 – 3, were reminded meeting details and registration form are in the recent issue of “Footprints”.

The Northern Neck Master Gardeners Association seminar is scheduled on March 26.

Cathie Elliott reported on the upcoming Arts and Flower Show scheduled April 1 and 2. Floral designers interpret various works of art in their floral designs, Members were urged to attend and it was noted the reception being held on the evening of April 1 is a particularly nice event to attend.

Deborah Brooks reminded the group that the Gloucester Daffodil Festival is being held on April 2 and 3.

**DUES:** Dues were due on March 1st. As of today’s meeting, a number of members’ dues were still outstanding. Members were urged to get their dues in as soon as possible.

**AWARDS:** Horticulture Chairman Bonnie Schaschek announced Ginni Baron received 2 blue; Deborah Brooks 8 blue; Deborah Burgess 8 blue and Mary Ann McKay 5 blue for horticulture. Deborah Burgess received one blue for design. Deborah Brooks was awarded best in show.

**PROGRAM:** Deborah Burgess, Program Chairman, introduced Cindy Balderson from Healthy Harvest Foodbank, located in Warsaw, Virginia.

Healthy Harvest Food Bank started in back of a truck and has progressed from simply providing food to those who need it to a meaningful program providing healthy and nutritious food. In 2017, 2.1 million pounds of food was distributed to 12,765 individuals through 28 pantries in the Northern Neck and Upper Middle Peninsula.

Research, knowledge of nutrition, and statistics about health issues in the Northern Neck have made Healthy Harvest a leader in promoting good eating habits and changing ideas and practices in food and cooking choices. Fundraising and implementing new ideas insure innovation and progress in the FOOD BANK organization.

In 2021, there were thirty pantries established throughout the Upper and Middle peninsulas. Backpack Buddies, a program with the goal of providing six meals for kids on the weekends featuring “no cooking” meals kids can prepare for themselves, are popular and turn learning into fun and productive activities that will be shared in households. Nineteen schools are involved in this program with volunteers helping. FOOD BANK partners with farmers in providing fresh fruits and vegetables.

There is a generational poverty cycle where obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes and high cholesterol start in grade school. Fried foods, carbohydrates, sugar, pork products are consumed in abundance instead of raw fruit, green vegetables, vegetable and fruit juices and poultry or fish. Working with adults, teens, and children, the staff at Healthy Harvest is dedicated to improving eating habits, shopping choices, cooking for healthy meals, and education in good health.

Ms. Balderson thanked the group for their food and monetary contributions noting these donations will help many. She said a Diamond and Denim Gala to help raise funds for the Food Bank will be held on May 14. Tickets are \$50 pp and can be purchased on line at [www.hhfb.org](http://www.hhfb.org).

**NEW BUSINESS:** Aleta Hoffman asked that any members who would be interested in helping Sheila Zukor’s husband tidy his yard let Aleta know. It was reported at the last meeting that Sheila had passed away but services would be delayed. Her husband is getting the yard ready for her services and needs help.

**NEXT MEETING:** Deborah Burgess announced the next meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>, will be held at Cathie Elliott’s home where members will be able to tour her garden and enjoy light

refreshments. Additionally, gardening and design items purchased from Jenny Boyenga will be offered for sale. Horticulture and design exhibits will be featured. Members are urged to bring their own chair.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Trisha Tetlow, Recording Secretary  
March 12, 2021