

**Rappahannock Garden Club
Executive Board Meeting
February 2, 2017**

The Executive Board Meeting of the Rappahannock Garden Club took place on February 2, 2017 at Anna's Restaurant in Kilmarnock. Officers attending were president Bonnie Schaschek, 1st vice-president Jenny Boyenga, 2nd vice-president and past president Cathie Elliott, recording secretary Anne O'Bryant, treasurer Robin Perks, and parliamentarian Anne Skerrett. Committee chairs attending were Deborah Brooks (hostess, awards), Cheryl Brown Davis (chaplain), Cathie Ward (Free Health Clinic), Joan Eremenko (artistic design), Sara Ford (artistic design), Carol Clark (website), Mary Ann McKay (youth), and Debbie Burgess (horticulture and food gardens). Absent members were Jo Manson (ways and means, membership), Sharon Rowe (judges), Margie Redlin (publicity, Blue Star Memorial), and Mary Jacobs (corresponding secretary).

President Bonnie Schaschek called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. The first order of business was the announcement of Cathie Elliott as the new 2nd vice-president, since Tami McCauley is no longer a member of the club. Treasurer Robin Perks presented the financial report and distributed several copies for members to peruse. She said she had paid for the December luncheon, dues of \$20.00 for the district, and \$300.00 for the year rental of Grace House. She had not been able to sign the contract at the time of payment to Grace Episcopal Church, because the person in charge was not available at the time. She indicated she would stop by the church at the conclusion of the meeting to sign the contract and to pay an additional \$15.00 to the total that had been inadvertently omitted at the time of payment. She reported a balance of \$6,600.00 in the checking account. Notice regarding membership dues will be sent the last week of February. If a member is interested in attending the district meeting on March 13, she needs to submit payment to treasurer Robin Perks as soon as possible. The club will send one check for members planning to attend. Bonnie said she needed all information for the yearbook by February 15.

First vice-president Jenny Boyenga presented the schedule of programs for the year.

MARCH 9: KOKEDAMA-Japanese Moss Balls – A design that is easy to create either as a hanging garden or in shallow dishes. There will be a demonstration and do-it-yourself kits for sale.

APRIL 13: WILDFLOWER MEADOW GARDENS – Donna Cottingham, VFGC State Chairman for Wildflowers, is also a professional photographer. She will present a power point presentation on helpful tips for planting and maintaining a wildflower garden.

MAY 11: ATTRACTING BIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN – Bob Schamerhorn, naturalist and photographer, will share helpful techniques for attracting birds and butterflies to the backyard. There will also be a plant exchange but no money exchange. Bring one, take one, bring two, take two.

JUNE 8: DESIGNING WITH PLANT MATERIALS FROM THE BACKYARD – Plant materials for an arrangement are just as interesting as those created with a lot of flowers. Applying the elements and principles of design, members will do arrangements from clippings and greenery around the house. Members will need to bring their own containers and materials.

JULY 13: ALL AROUND THE HOUSE-the good, the bad, and the ugly. – Dr. Peter Shultz, Professor of Entomology at the VA Tech extension service in Norfolk, will be the guest speaker. Members are encouraged to bring in an unidentifiable creature, bagged and ready for analysis!

AUGUST 10: FROM GARDEN TO TABLE, Designing with veggies – Diane Burgess, NGC accredited judge, will describe each step (selection, conditioning, and arranging) of creating edible vegetable designs.

SEPTEMBER 14: FIELD TRIP TO WASHINGTON, DC – Tentative bus trip to the US National Arboretum and Botanical Gardens where Ellen Spencer, NGC Plant American committee member, will be the hostess. Cost will be approximately \$80.00 per person, and 42 persons are needed to fill the bus. Members may invite guests if there is an availability of space on the bus.

OCTOBER 12: TABLE AND MANTLE DESIGNS – Sally Harrison, NGC accredited judge and owner of Farnsworth Floral Designs in Richmond, will demonstrate holiday designs.

NOVEMBER 9: MEMBERS HOLIDAY WORKSHOP: Purpose is to provide practical and quick decorating tips for the holidays. There will be demonstrations on holiday centerpieces, wreaths, and swags. Members may choose one to do after the demonstrations.

DECEMBER 14: CHRISTMAS PARTY – A committee will work on the details. Installation of new officers will take place.

Joan Eremenko made a motion, seconded by Deborah Brooks, and approved by the membership that the program agenda be approved. Jenny Boyenga reminded members of the invitation to join the Master Gardeners on March 16 for the program to be presented by Brent Heath of Brent and Becky's Bulbs.

Mary Ann McKay presented the youth program agenda. She stated that there were two local winners in the Smokey Bear Poster Contest and that plaques had been purchased and will be engraved for the winners. They were Kodi Uhler, a fourth grader, and Aniyah Everett, a fifth grader. The local winners will go on to district competition, and the results will be announced in March. There were over 100 entrants who were encouraged and helped by Marilyn Sprouse, the art teacher at LMS. Plans for Flower Power are to work with the daughter of Cathy Carr who sponsors a Girl Scout troop. As a service project for which the girls will get a badge, the girls will make 24 cup arrangements to be distributed to patients at

Rappahannock General Hospital probably at three different times during the year. Mary Ann will be requesting volunteers from the club membership to help with the project. Mary Ann said she would be attending a mentoring workshop on Monday, February 6 at the Boys and Girls Club of the Northern Neck. She has discussed with Donna Anderson, board chair of the Boys & Girls Club, the possibility of doing the Frightened Frog Program with the first and second grade girls during their summer camp. Also, Mary Ann plans to present a one-hour Frightened Frog Program on Wednesday, April 12 at the Middlesex County Public Library.

President Bonnie reported that there are currently 66 members enrolled in the club. There are 43 regular memberships, 8 associate memberships, and 15 emeritus memberships. There are several new members who need orientation that will probably take place in February. Deborah Brooks has a list of members who have committed to helping with lunch during a specified month. Debbie Burgess has the lists of members who have committed to working as clerks, guides, and judges. President Bonnie suggested that Sharon Rowe, Deborah Brooks, and Debbie Burgess send the information to Cathie Elliott for publication in the yearbook for verification of duties.

Cathie Ward reported on the Free Health Clinic. She said she felt that volunteerism at the clinic was in a crisis stage with only 6 or 7 members having signed up over a period of 24 weeks. Members need to be encouraged to sign up on the schedule. Perhaps e-mailing club members to sign up and to determine if they would be willing to work on call might suffice. There will also be a signup sheet at the first meeting in March. A suggestion was made to write a description of what the volunteers do at the Free Health Clinic. They can participate in selecting plants, fertilizing, pulling weeds, and/or cleanup of the area.

Margie Redlin submitted a written report regarding the Blue Star Memorial. The garden was weeded and cleaned in the spring, and two flats of marigolds were planted in early summer along with mulching. The garden was routinely checked and weeding, watering, and maintenance were done when necessary. Recently the area has been raked to remove leaves, weeded, and grasses cut back. Also, there has been minor pruning of the cypress shrubs. Margie reported that she is exploring the possibility of replacing some of the shrubs with flowering shrubs. There were suggestions of dwarf nandina and butterfly bush to use for replacement.

Margie also submitted a written report regarding publicity. It stated that with the help of Paula Brinser, Cathie Elliott, and Jo Manson the committee submitted 14 articles to the Rappahannock Record, 2 articles to VFGC Old Dominion Gardener, and 2 articles to Piedmont District Footprints. Clippings of articles were saved and sent in for Publicity Press Book

Award. In October Jenny Boyenga, RGC Programs Chair, was interviewed on local radio stations WIGO104.9 and Bay 107.1 FM. Jenny spoke of the mission of the club. She also invited the public to the club fundraiser in which NGC president-elect, Nancy Hargroves, demonstrated fall and winter container gardening.

Debbie Burgess reported on horticulture and food gardens. There were 283 floral exhibits and 49 food garden exhibits. She said some active members did not participate, so therefore were not in good standing. They did not participate in artistic design. Members need to submit two exhibits in two different months. Cathie Elliott will put the criteria in the newsletter.

Joan Eremenko and Sara Ford reported on artistic design. They met with Jenny Boyenga and determined an artistic design theme for the year entitled "Rainbows in Our Environment." Each color in the rainbow has a meaning, and a different color will be used each month with a specific design classification. There will be no designer's choice.

Deborah Brooks reported on the hostess committee. There was concern that several members served on the hostess committee several times during the year. Members are strongly encouraged to participate at least once during the year. Cathie Elliott will publish the list in the newsletter as a reminder.

Awards for the club include the Butterfly Project, Just Gardens, the Blue Star Memorial, and the newsletter. This year's yearbook will be on the website only.

The Ways and Means Committee will meet in early March. Treasurer Robin Perks reported that this committee generated \$2,558.00 from July through December of 2016.

Mary Jacobs submitted a "sunshine" committee report. She listed the people to whom she had sent get-well cards and sympathy cards. There was one thank you card sent to Peggy May's daughter for her memorial gift to the club in memory of her mother.

There was discussion about the calendar year versus the fiscal year. There is need for the financial calendar to coincide with the regular calendar to make bookkeeping much easier. This will need to be voted on by the membership at the first meeting in March. The change would require a by-law change. Another item of discussion included community service activity. There was discussion about possibly changing it to state that every member has to work once a year at the Free Health Clinic. This would necessitate a by-law change. There was a general consensus that there needs to be a narrative for the outreach programs. The club must

decide what is a community activity and what is a project. The membership chair in the past has kept up with the record keeping. The membership chair needs to continue keeping track of the active and associate status members. President Bonnie expressed concern that people were showing up as guests multiple times without any intent of joining the club. A suggestion was made for each guest, whether member guest or off the street guest, to make a \$5.00 donation, with the exception of Cathie Carr who has strongly supported the club for many years by donating flowers and supplies. Debbie Burgess made a motion that was seconded by Mary Ann McKay that the club request a \$5.00 donation from each guest. The executive board approved the motion with the exception of one member who opposed it.

A motion was made by Mary Ann McKay, seconded by Cathie Elliott, and approved by the board members that the meeting be adjourned. Time of adjournment was 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne O'Bryant
Recording Secretary