

Minutes of Rappahannock Garden Club Meeting March 10, 2016

President Bonnie Schaschek began the meeting by asking Chaplain Cheryl Brown Davis to bless the food. The hostess committee provided a buffet luncheon. Guests from other garden clubs, including Westmoreland, Chesapeake, and Kilmarnock, were introduced and welcomed. The first meeting of 2016 of the Rappahannock Garden Club was called to order at 12:30 p.m.

President Bonnie Schaschek shared a message about the theme for 2016. The theme is Environmental Stewardship – participate, educate, implement, and restore. To participate we must be responsible users and protectors of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices. To educate we will create a youth program at the Northern Neck Boys & Girls Club, present information to local libraries and other venues as opportunities present themselves, and to continue to present monthly programs to members and guests. To implement we have established a scholarship program for students majoring in agriculture, agronomy, botany and/or biology, city or rural planning, floriculture, forestry, habitat or forest systems ecology, horticulture, land management, landscape design, plant pathology, wildlife science, and environmental concerns. To restore our members will be asked to provide food and a habitat for pollinators in our home gardens or in a container on a deck, window planter, in our public garden project (FHC), and our youth garden projects. This will be our contribution to the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge. Membership is pivotal in terms of what our club can do. We need to continue inviting guests to our meetings in order to grow our club. This is also a Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs initiative in the “Plus One Membership Program – Bring a Friend to the Club Meeting.”

President Schaschek displayed the nine pictures that were submitted by members for the photo garden contest held during the winter. The best photo was Ann Hecht’s “Sunrise on the Rappahannock.” Bonnie presented her a gift for the best photo.

January, February, and March birthdays were announced followed by the group singing of “Happy Birthday.”

President Bonnie thanked the hostesses: Mary Jacobs (Chair), Barbara Pulling, Karen Rosenfeld, Sandra Harris, Bonnie Schaschek, Cathie Ward, and Jenny Boyenga.

Old business included the review of minutes from the December meeting and the October Executive Board meeting. Edna Earle Mizelle made a

motion, seconded by Jean Ehlman, and approved by members that the December minutes be approved. Anne Warner made a motion to approve the minutes of the board meeting. The motion was seconded by Carol Clark, and approved by the membership.

Three new members were introduced to the club and were presented gift bags by membership chair, Jo Manson. Jane Austin, who is also sponsored by Jo, grew up in New York, just north of New York City. She has a degree in elementary education, psychology, and French. She and her husband live in Kilmarnock on the old Apple Grove Farm. She is very interested in vegetable gardening in raised containers, landscaping, and container gardening. Gail Feddeman, sponsored by her friend and sister-in-law Anne Warner, moved to Irvington in 2013 from northern Virginia. She and her husband have one daughter, and they spend summers in Holland, Michigan. She wants to acquire knowledge of local gardening for personal use and to help beautify the area in which she lives. Adrian "Muffin" Fitzpatrick, sponsored by Sharon Rowe, hails from Brooklyn, New York where she met and married her high school sweetheart. She raised a family and was always involved in sports and gardening. She currently lives in Irvington. She is interested in landscape design with a focus on flowers and small shrubs that are deer resistant and heat tolerant.

In addition to new members, new business included membership renewal dues and forms that were due to treasurer Robin Perks. Also, members were reminded to pick up inserts for the yearbook.

President Bonnie reminded members of the district meeting on April 4. Anyone wishing to attend must send a check to Robin Perks for registration by March 17. She announced that the Gardening in the Northern Neck Seminar is scheduled for Saturday, April 2. The theme is "Nurturing Nature – Sustainable Gardening." Lisa Ziegler will be the guest speaker and her topic will be "The Ground Up." She announced that landscape school is scheduled April 6-7 in Virginia Beach. Details are in the Spring 2016 issue of "Footprints" on the district website. A card was read from Sharon Timm thanking members for their support during her husband's illness and death.

There were three committee reports. Cathie Ward who chairs the Free Health Clinic committee said she needed more members to sign up. She said she had scheduled a garden workday at the clinic on Saturday, March 12, for two hours. Rain date would be the following Saturday. Members were asked to bring clippers, gloves, trowels, and shovels. Members can sign up on the work schedule sheet for weeding and watering. Also, sign up can be done electronically. Mary Ann McKay, chair of youth programs, said her committee had met that now includes Flower Power. She announced that there was an activity planned at the Boys & Girls Club for

Thursday, March 24, from 4:30 to 5:30. She will need at least ten members to volunteer to work with the youngsters in doing cup arrangements. Volunteers will need to bring flowers and greenery. Cathie Elliott will explain and demonstrate a design to the participants. Jo Manson, chair of the ways and means committee, gave an overview of the projects for the year. One of the major projects is the scholarship fund. A \$1,000.00 scholarship will be given to a senior in Lancaster or Northumberland County who applies and meets the criteria. She announced that the Root Cellar will open in April and will operate each month throughout the year. The Root Cellar is the major arm of fundraising for the committee. She listed items that could be sold and encouraged all members to contribute by donating and/or purchasing items. The club will participate again this year in the Northern Neck Burger Night. It is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, from 3-10 p.m. Ten percent of the proceeds will go to the club.

Jenny Boyenga, first vice-president, introduced the guest speaker, Janice Clem, who is the state president of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. She discussed the structure and programs from the national level to the local clubs. She said that the garden clubs in Virginia are divided into six districts, and our club is in the Piedmont district. The Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs is a part of the South Atlantic region, and that region is part of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Some of the programs mentioned were preserving monarch butterflies, planting together as a community gardens, planting trees for tomorrow (in commemoration of Civil War soldiers), and Plus One Membership to increase overall membership in garden clubs. Youth grants were started in 2007, and to date have reached over 23,000 youth. It is one means by which the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs gives back to our club. The grants are to beautify and restore, and the deadline for applications is September 15. Speaker Clem re-emphasized conserving the environment including air, water, and earth. She said there were over fifty-six Blue Star Memorial Markers in Virginia. They honor those serving in the armed forces and serve as a tribute to the armed forces. The Gold Star Memorial is a tribute to Gold Star families who have lost a family member in service. The Penny Pines Program is a National Garden Clubs initiative. Individuals can contribute \$68.00 to have a tree planted on a designated acre of land. Trees are not limited to pines, but also include hardwoods. The youth programs include college scholarships, poster contests, poetry contests, and other projects. Speaker Clem, in closing remarks, stressed the importance of members attending conventions. She said the 2017 National Garden Club convention is in Virginia. Virginia Garden Club Week is June 5-11. At the conclusion of the program, Jenny Boyenga presented a gift to the speaker. A gift was also presented to the visiting judge.

The results of horticulture, food garden, and artistic design were as follows:

Horticulture

Deborah Burgess – 6 Blue, 1 Red – 33 points

Carol Clark – 4 Blue – 20 points

Margaret Curtis – 1 Blue, 1 Red, 1 Yellow – 10 points

Susan Edmonds – 1 Blue – 5 points

Joan Eremenko – 2 Blue – 10 points

Robin Perks – 1 Blue, 2 Red – 11 points

Barbara Pulling – 1 Blue plus Best in Show – 15 points

Anita Shawver – 1 Red, 1 Yellow – 5 points

Ann Skerrett – Display only – ½ point

Food Garden

Deborah Burgess – 1 Blue – 5 points

Carol Clark – 1 Red – 3 points

Artistic Design

Deborah Brooks – 1 Red – 3 points

Debbie Burgess – 1 Red – 3 points

Carol Clark – 1 Blue, 1 Yellow – 7 points

Cathie Elliott – 2 Blue plus Best in Show, Exhibit only – 20 ½ points

Cathie Elliott made a motion to adjourn. Sue Broadway seconded the motion that was approved by membership. Time of adjournment was 2:20. A workshop followed for members who wished to attend.