

## **Minutes of Rappahannock Garden Club Meeting October 13, 2016**

The meeting opened with President Bonnie Schaschak welcoming members and guests. Chaplain Cheryl Brown Davis invoked a prayer of thankfulness after which lunch was served. There was a lovely dessert buffet for all who attended the program. The hostess committee consisted of Bonnie Sschaschak (chair), Jenny Boyenga, Margie Redlin, Mary Hutya, Sharon Timm, Robin Perks, Judy Ripley, Carol Clark, Cathie Elliott, Barbara Touchette, Mary Jacobs, and Ann Gray Wood. Birthdays of the month included Anne Skerrett, Margie Redlin, and Tami McCauley. Sandra Harris led the group in singing "Happy Birthday."

President Bonnie called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Jan Litsinger made a motion, seconded by Sharon Rowe, and approved by the membership that the September minutes and financial report be approved. The September newsletter had been posted for review. Bonnie reminded members that voting for the "Most Valuable Gardener" would take place at the November meeting. She also announced the following: Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs Symposium was scheduled for November 9 and November 10 in Henrico and information was available on the website, Piedmont District Grant application deadline is February 15, 2017 and now is the time to work on it, and the national convention of garden clubs will be May 18-20 at the Richmond Marriott Hotel in downtown Richmond and volunteers are needed. Bonnie announced that the year-end luncheon committee had met and finalized plans for the luncheon. Committee members are Jo Manson, Mary Hutya, Cheryl Brown Davis, Pam Lazorchek, and Robin Perks. A contract has been drawn up with ICYCC, menu choices have been selected, and cost per member has been determined. The date is Thursday, December 8. Members who plan to attend will pay at the November meeting.

President Bonnie presented to Jo Manson a certificate for wildlife habitat. Jo participates in the monarch butterfly way station. Other new business included a report from Mary Ann McKay, chair of youth programs. She announced that Flower Power would be held at the Boys and Girls Club on Thursday, November 3, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. She requested volunteers to help and to bring greenery from their yards. Jenny Boyenga will get the flowers for the cup arrangements. She also discussed the upcoming Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl poster contest for fourth and fifth graders. She indicated the need for five volunteers to read the story of how Smokey Bear got started. Marilyn Sprouse, art teacher at Lancaster Middle School, will help with the poster contest, since there will be approximately two hundred posters. Mary Ann will visit the schools on November 28. Bonnie

announced that Cathie Carr and her daughter were selling some merchandise at their shop at a reduction in order to make room to restock. Members were encouraged to visit the shop, since Cathie has been a strong supporter of the RGC for a number of years.

In presenting a new youth member to the club, Bonnie stated that the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs provides many educational opportunities for the youth of Virginia. The purpose of the youth gardening programs is to introduce gardening, conservation, protection of wildlife, recognition of plants, trees, and shrubs, basic flower arranging, and a love and appreciation of nature. The goal is that they will be future citizens with an understanding of their environment. Jenny Boyenga introduced Chrissy Ketner who has been attending club meetings as a guest of Jenny. Chrissy, who is a fifth grader at Lancaster Middle School, received an honorary membership as the first youth club member. Plans are beginning for a youth club in 2017. Planning will take place over the next several months, and details will be presented at the March, 2017 meeting. In the meantime, Chrissy will act as a steward spreading the word of the club and enticing other youths to join. Bonnie presented a certificate to Chrissy, Jenny gave her a bracelet "a vine with many branches," Mary Ann McKay gave her a packet of items to help with flower arranging, and the president-elect of the National Garden Clubs, Nancy Hargroves, presented her a charm bracelet with the NGC insignia.

Vice President Jenny Boyenga introduced the guest speaker Nancy Hargroves, the president-elect of the National Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. Nancy is a woman of many accomplishments. She is a past president of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, has been active in garden clubs over the years, is a NGC accredited flower show judge, a board member of the American Horticultural Society, and a member of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond. Her program was entitled "Witches, Turkeys, and Reindeer," fall and winter container gardening. She said that there are unlimited possibilities that exist in container design, no matter the season. Fall and winter containers can also provide make-ahead holiday decorations for inside and outside the home. She showed various ways to transform existing outdoor flower containers into seasonal designs. She starts early in the spring in planting her outdoor containers. She selects flowers and plants with interesting colors, textures, and growth habits. The easiest way to transform containers into holiday designs is by adding accessories such as pumpkins, gourds, painted branches, or pinecones. She displayed over ten designs and donated two of the designs for door prizes. At the conclusion of her dynamic presentation, she and her assistant Kathy Ward were presented gift baskets of homemade food items from the Root Cellar.

There were silent auction items, and raffle tickets had been sold during the event for garden related items. Silent auction items included earrings, a necklace, and a hydrangea wreath. In the ticket drawing Margaret Curtis won a flower arrangement, Anne O'Bryant got a living wreath of succulents, Karen Rosenfeld received a fall wreath, and Jan Litsinger won a ball jar flower arrangement. Other prizes included a pumpkin topiary won by Sara Ford and a kissing ivy ball won by Carol Clark. The guest speaker made both items. The guest speaker also made a dusty miller wreath and brought many eyeball plants for which there were multiple drawings.

In conclusion Cathie Elliott and Jenny Boyenga were thanked for decorating the front entrance to Grace House. The decoration was an example of fall splendor. Also members were thanked for providing many home cooked and handmade items to sell in the Root Cellar. Sales were exceptional due to the generosity of everyone present.

Sandra Harris made a motion to adjourn. Jan Litsinger seconded the motion that was approved by membership. Time of adjournment was 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne O'Bryant  
Recording Secretary