

**Rappahannock Garden Club
Executive Board Meeting
January 7, 2016**

The Executive Board Meeting of the Rappahannock Garden Club took place on January 7, 2016 at the home of Bonnie Schaschek. It was the first board meeting of the year. Present were Bonnie Schaschek (president), Jenny Boyenga (1st vice-president), Anne O'Bryant (secretary), Robin Perks (treasurer), Cathie Elliott (past president), Mary Jacobs (corresponding secretary), and Anne Skerrett (parliamentarian). Committee chairs present were Deborah Brooks (hostess, awards), Debbie Burgess (horticulture), Sara Ford and Joan Eremenko (co-chairs, artistic design), Jo Manson (ways and means, membership, scholarship), Mary Ann McKay (youth programs), Cathie Ward (Free Health Clinic), and Carol Clark (website). Absent: Tami McCauley (2nd Vice-president) and Cheryl Davis-Brown(Chaplain)

President Bonnie Schaschek called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The first agenda item was the introduction of the committee chairs and assigned officers. After reviewing the monthly sign-on up activities it was determined that many months did not have hostess/cookies, clerks, guides or judges. After much discussion, rather than automatically assigning members to particular functions, Jenny Boyenga made a motion that assignments should be given no more than two to three months out, since assigning in advance for a year is not working effectively. Members will have the opportunity to sign-up at monthly meetings for open slots. Robin Perks seconded the motion and it was approved by the board.

Jenny Boyenga reviewed the programs for the year. They will correlate with the 2016 theme "Environmental Stewardship" – participate, educate, implement, and restore. The kickoff speaker at the first meeting in March will be Janice Clem, State President of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. She will discuss programs from the national level down to the local clubs, and other local garden clubs will be invited.

APRIL 14: *"Butterflies/Pollinators"* - *VFGC State Chairman, Donna Cottingham* will provide an educational program to include "Monarch Butterfly Way Stations"

MAY 12: *"Square foot gardening"* - 'Down sizing' is the new norm for many of us. Join John Lunsford, Master Gardener, sharing his expertise, experiences and knowledge of Raised-Bed Construction Materials Comparisons

JUNE 9: *"THAT Container"* – *with Barbara Dillard* Most of us have purchased a container for flowers that we just haven't figured out what to do with it as yet – let's see what Barbara can do with them

JULY 14: “Living Gifts” - A demonstration and *workshop* on Terrariums and Dish Gardens given by Jenny Boyenga. May try to get plants and supplies at wholesale, a list will be put together in advance.

AUG 11: “Life In Color” -“ Life is filled with color...and color gives us joy! Join Kathleen Noffsinger will share her knowledge of color.

SEPT 8: “Plants for Late Winter Interest”

OCT 13: “Fall Container Gardening” with Nancy Hargroves. Nancy’s program has been described as “over the top”! Currently serving as First Vice President of National Garden Clubs Inc., she is also an Accredited NGC Judge and served as VFGC State President.

NOV 10: *Holiday Design Workshop* - Beautiful holiday floral designs do not have to be either expensive or labor intensive. Quick and simple table designs for Thanksgiving and Christmas will be demonstrated by RGC members. All are invited to the demonstration portion of the meeting, workshop open to members only.

DEC 8: ANNUAL RGC CHRISTMAS PARTY – committee needs to be created

To find venues/options and present to membership.

The website is up and running, and members are encouraged to use it for club updates and general garden club information. Carol Clark is working closely with Bonnie to set up an account, calendar, and file names. Members are encouraged to send dates for upcoming events to Bonnie who will work with Carol to update the calendar on a consistent basis. It is very important for members to submit correct e-mail addresses so information can be distributed quickly and efficiently.

Jenny said she would e-mail Dorothy Yard to see if she would be a contact person to answer questions about horticulture that members could submit on-line. Pictures of plants could be sent to her as well.

Tami McCauley is be in charge of the newsletter, yearbook and member communication. General consensus was that the newsletter needs to be reduced in length and does not need to be published monthly. It was suggested to publish quarterly. We do need a vehicle to send e-mail blasts out to membership, as events, issues or whatever arises.

Meeting minutes are to be distributed to members on the website. Having the yearbook on the website will save the club approximately \$600.00 in printing fee. The goal for this year is 80% yearbook distribution on the website. Membership profiles and pictures will not be on the Website.

There will be a slight change in preparing the meeting room for monthly meetings. The club is reinstating James Beale for setup and the take down of tables and chairs. Setup will take place on Wednesdays, and a club member will need to monitor for the first several months. Horticulture and Artistic Design team will be responsible for the tablecloths and class cards. The Hostess and Cookies will be responsible for the Luncheon tablecloths. The club will also reinstate the monthly luncheons, however members will be seated at tables and will turn chairs for speakers. Centerpieces are not necessary for the member luncheon tables. Luncheons will be centered around the seasons, soups & salads, finger sandwiches, salads, desserts...etc The March kickoff luncheon is in the planning stages.

There was discussion concerning a RGC pin creation. A motion was made by Anne Skerrett, seconded by Mary Ann McKay, and approved by the board that the club explore options of selling garden club pins.

The club needs items for the Root Cellar for Artistic design. Seed money has already been budgeted - motion passed at the October Board Meeting, for artistic design supplies to be managed by the Artistic Design Committee but available to members via Root Cellar. Ways & Means is the fund raiser committee for the club. Jo is scheduling a meeting with the committee members.

Jo Manson reported that the scholarship team had received information from both Lancaster and Northumberland High School. She said she had borrowed a form used by Betty Otley who handles scholarships for Grace Episcopal Church. The form can be modified to meet the club needs, and a scholarship meeting was scheduled for the following Thursday. The club will need to get scholarship applicant information to the high schools by the end of January.

Mary Ann McKay is chair of youth programs and is assisted by Susan Edmonds and Pam Lazorchak. "The Frightened Frog," "Woodsy Owl," and "Smokey the Bear" are programs to be presented to the Boys and Girls Club and the Y along with topics such as protecting our pollinators. It was suggested that Flower Power be incorporated into the youth programs. In so doing, cup arrangements could be made by youngsters at the Boys and Girls Club three or four times a year. The children, with the assistance of committee members, could make one and take one, meaning that they would make one arrangement to take home and another arrangement to be sent to Rappahannock General Hospital for patients. A motion was made by Mary Ann McKay, seconded by Joan Eremenko, and approved by the board that Flower Power be blended with the youth programs. Mary Ann McKay will chair the committee, and members who have signed up to work

on Flower Power will have the opportunity to work with Mary Ann in helping youngsters design cup arrangements. Mary Ann will need the Flower Power list of names to include on her committee.

Jo Manson showed a sample gift package for new members that would be substituted for the rose that has been traditionally given to new members. Jo indicated that she needed a co-chair for the New Members. Cathie Ward volunteered to co-chair. There is the need to have new photos of members and updated profile information for the yearbook.

There was a discussion to replace name badges with magnetic badges because members have been complaining about pins in clothing. This is something that should be done, Jo will investigate the options, there are funds available for the new name tags.

Items from the floor included a request by Debbie Burgess for a co-chair for horticulture. As the club has grown, there are more exhibitors of horticulture. Joan Eremenko said she and Sara Ford had been working on monthly themes for artistic design. They are planning to focus on gemstones and will have a Class I and a Class II title for each month of artistic design.

A motion was made by Cathie Elliott, seconded by Deborah Brooks, and approved by the board that the meeting be adjourned. Time of adjournment was 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne O'Bryant
Recording Secretary