

**Minutes of Rappahannock Garden Club Meeting  
July 14, 2016**

The meeting opened with President Bonnie Schaschek welcoming members and guests after which Chaplain Cheryl Brown Davis offered a blessing. The hostess committee consisted of Bonnie Schaschek (chair), Jenny Boyenga, Jo Crichton, Anita Shawver, Debbie Burgess, and Cheryl Brown Davis. Birthdays of the month included Aleta Hoffman, Kaye Simpson, Nan Liner, and Bonnie Schaschek. A special mention was made concerning the birthday of our country on July 4. Cheryl Brown Davis led the group in singing "Happy Birthday."

President Bonnie called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Her special message for the month was environmental stewardship and sustainable gardening. She said a sustainable garden works in harmony with nature. She described some techniques that can improve the health of a garden and minimize any negative impact on the environment. They included organic gardening, using native plants and trees, worm composting, backyard composting, using drip irrigation, mulching, integrating pest management, planting flowers that attract beneficial insects, recycling and reusing, and inviting ladybugs, spiders, toads, bats, bees, and hummingbirds into the garden.

Old business included the review of minutes and financials from the June meeting that had been posted on the website. Cheryl Brown Davis made a motion, seconded by Jo Manson, and approved by the membership that the minutes and financial report be approved. President Bonnie mentioned that it was the beginning of the new fiscal year with financials. She also said the June newsletter had been posted that contained information about the field trip to Lisa Ziegler's gardens and an update on "The Frightened Frog" that is being presented once a week for eight weeks to the Boys & Girls Club. There was some discussion on Lisa Ziegler's instructions about the correct way to pinch back basil. She had said to take the whole stem all the way down instead of pinching back just the top of the stem. Bonnie announced that "Growing A Greener World" is an source

for gardeners. She said that Lisa Ziegler is doing a study on videos, consisting of one chapter a week on cool flower plants.

President Bonnie reminded members to do committee signups on line. She announced the need for three additional volunteers to hostess for the August 11 meeting. Paula Brinser, Cathie Elliott, and Jo Manson volunteered. She announced the need for two clerks, one guide, and a novice judge for the August meeting. Marty Wilson and Sara Ford volunteered to be clerks, Deborah Brooks volunteered to be a guide, and no one volunteered to be a novice judge.

Several committee reports were presented. Debbie Burgess said the club was planning a fundraiser. It would be a sale of plants in October. She requested that members bring in plants from their gardens to sell such as snapdragons, sweetpeas, asters, and various ground covers. The plants would need proper labeling and would need instructions for planting and care. Seeds will be accepted also. Debbie plans to send out a list of "to do" items for members in an effort to make the job easy. She and possibly Cathie Elliott would collect any plant donations prior to the date of the fundraiser. Cathie Elliott announced that she was conducting a survey of members in an effort to determine what they are doing in terms of environmentally friendly practices. The information will be compiled and used for different purposes. It is an excellent means of networking. Bonnie reported on the Youth Program. She indicated that there was a signup sheet for volunteers and that an e-mail had also been sent requesting volunteers to help with "The Frightened Frog" at the Boys & Girls Club. Xathie Elliott indicated that there were two "Frightened Frog" books for sale for ten dollars, and they would make excellent gifts for grandchildren. The age range is K-4. Jo Manson reported on the Ways & Means Committee. She said the committee would be collecting home canned goods from members between August and October with the major focus being in October. She announced that barbecue would be sold in October. The committee has aprons for sale. If a member wishes to buy an

apron, Bonnie will embroider it for fifteen dollars. She presented an update from the Scholarship Committee. She had received a letter from Dillon Rose, one of the club's scholarship recipients, thanking the members for the scholarship. He plans to attend Virginia Tech and major in animal and environmental studies. She also had received a letter from Barbara Smith, director of guidance at LHS, thanking the members for awarding a scholarship and for their participation in the Awards Program.

New business consisted of President Bonnie announcing that the district meeting was scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup> that is Columbus Day. The cost is thirty dollars, and she requested that members who plan to attend to contact treasurer Robin Perks. Bonnie requested that at least ten members attend the district meeting.

The second order of new business was the new member presentation. New member Glo Romaine hails from New Mexico. She has two children and four grandchildren. She retired from Mobil Corporation and moved to the Northern Neck in 2014. She and her husband have owned a home in Lancaster since 2002. Glo orchestrated and planned worldwide events for the corporate executive board of Mobil, and she also managed Mobil Foundation's grants and contributions. Her hobbies are gardening and learning how to play different instruments. Presently she is learning to play the harmonica. President Bonnie presented to her a welcome bag of garden goodies.

Vice-president Jenny Boyenga conducted a workshop on terrariums and dish gardens. She said that cactus and succulents grow in sand. She suggested using coffee filters to wrap the roots at the bottom of the container and to work with succulents when they are wet. She said succulents do not require a lot of attention and do not need much water, about a teaspoonful a week. Members who were doing a terrarium or dish garden were asked to think of a theme. They were instructed to layer companion colors in sands and elements in the container and to place dense material down first, such as sand and to put rock on top. Jenny said it is imperative that the components of any terrarium or dish garden have the same light

and water needs. Jenny had made sample large terrariums that were sold in a silent auction to Debbie Burgess and Carol Clark for seventy dollars each. Tickets were sold for chances of winning Jenny's small sample terrariums. Cheryl Brown Davis, Paula Brinser, and Anne O'Bryant were the winners of the drawing.

Horticulture, food garden, and artistic design results were announced.

Horticulture

Deborah Brooks – 2 Red – 6 points

Deborah Burgess – 5 Blue, 2 Red – 31 points

Sara Ford – 2 Blue, 1 Red – 13 points

Ann Hecht – 3 Blue – 15 points

Janice Litsinger – 3 Blue, 3 Red – 24 points

Jo Manson – 5 Blue, 1 Red – 28 points

Judy Ripley – 3 Blue, 1 Red – 18 points

Sharon Rowe – 8 Blue, 1 Red plus Best in Show – 53 points

Marty Wilson – 5 Blue, 3 Red, 1 Yellow – 36 points

Food Garden

Deborah Burgess – 3 Blue -15 points

Susan Edmonds – 1 Blue – 5 points

Ann Hecht – 1 Yellow – 2 points

Jo Manson – 2 Blue – 10 points

Sharon Rowe – 1 Blue – 5 points

Artistic Design

Cathie Elliott – 1 Blue – 5 points

Jenny Boyenga made a motion to adjourn. Karen Rosenfeld seconded the motion that was approved by membership. Time of adjournment was 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne O'Bryant  
Recording Secretary