

TOPSHAM GARDEN CLUB MINUTES

Date: June 8, 2016

President Vicky Marr called the meeting to order at 1:47 with the various pledges recited. In attendance were 25 members (and 9 guests for the program).

Hostesses were recognized and thanked.

For this meeting: Carla Rensenbrink, Doreen Wakely, Carol Williams, Peggy Lord

For next meeting: Alison Harris, Claudia Knox, Jean Herlihy, Jane Donelon

Library flowers

This month: Not available

July: Jane Donelon

August: Dorothy Gardner

Secretary's Report for April

Corrections: none

Moved by: Marge Whipple

Seconded by: Liz Volckening

Secretary's Report for May

Trip to McLaughlin Gardens in South Paris

No business meeting

Treasurer's Report:

- Checking account: \$3379.64
- Savings account : \$2508.49
- Renewed memberships as of June 7, 2016 are 25 plus one honorary member.
- Dues of \$20 for individual/\$30 for two in same household are payable by June 15, 2016. Those members will be included in the updated yearbook insert which is expected to be available for the July 13 meeting.
- Plant /yard sale results: Income: \$1619.00
Expenses to date: 322.83
Net to date: 1296.17
- Fiscal year end May 31, 2016: Checking account \$1748
Savings account \$2508.49

Executive Committee:

- Board meeting planned for late July.
- Open positions: Vice President and Program, Nominating, 2017 District Meeting, Publicity, Topsham Fair

Committee Reports:

- Environmental Awareness/Jane Scease -- A workshop to discuss the usage of plastic bags in Topsham has been held. No action by the Town.
- Hostesses/Liz Volckening – All spaces have been filled.
- Plant/yard sale/Kim Mondonedo -- Kim thanked all members and spouses who had helped with the plant sale by contributing plants, providing publicity (with flyers, in- ground signs, media), and working the sale Friday afternoon and Saturday. Kim acknowledged Barbara McHarg for her idea to move the leftover plants to the sidewalk, free for the taking. Kim announced that she will be continuing her education and will be unable to chair this committee next year. Marie Neale added that she placed 24 signs but 2 are now missing (from River Road and Main Street near the exit from Mill Island).
- Town Gardens/Jean Herlihy and Barbara McHarg – Planting of annuals is complete, with most being drought tolerant and requiring little deadheading which will ease the work for those tending the gardens. Some perennials have been rearranged and others added with more to be added in the fall. The sign-up sheet was circulated leaving just 3 weeks open: July 10, July 31, and August 28.
- Ways and Means/Lucette Musica – More raffles will be held.
- Programs/Vicky Marr – Upcoming Programs will be:

July	Tour of Members' Gardens
August	Trip to Barred Owl Daylilies
September	Heirloom Apples
October	Vermiculture – What, Where, How, and Why
November	Historic Plants in Maine/Native Plants used as Edibles
March	Sedum

Unfinished Business:

- Work on ideas to increase membership

New Business:

- Topsham Fair – Liz Volckening and Carol Williams will be on the committee, but not as chair.
- Master Gardener Program -- \$220 scholarship available in Medomak District. Provide application and acceptance letter to Medomak District Board for consideration.
- Past TGC President Jean Clifford has passed.
- Highlights from GCFM Newsletter, Thyme to Grow:
 - Gardener's Supply is offering a 25% discount for 2016 with code, GCFM16.
 - Marshall Flower is offering a 5% discount with code, GC4516, until August 31.
 - GCFM is hosting the NGC Fall Board Meeting in September.
 - NER Convention is October 17 and 18 with talks on floral design and daffodils.
 - GCFM Fall Conference is October 31 at Augusta Civic Center with one topic being Maine's Rare and Endangered Plants by Don Cameron.
- Guest Pixie Williams addressed the group with information about the European Elm tree in her yard (on Foreside Road in Topsham near the Veterinarian business) perhaps brought here by early settlers. She encouraged us to be aware of its history and we offered ideas for further publicity.
- Coastal Maine Botanical Garden is offering, free of charge to members, a talk by Daniel Hinckley on August 17 from 2-5 p.m. The topic is Plant Explorations in Asia.

Announcements and important dates:

- June 15 and 16 -- GCFM Annual Meeting, Bar Harbor, "Gardens of Eden"
- June 21 – Bath Home and Garden Tour including Days Ferry and Woolwich
- July 13 – Topsham Garden Club Tour of Members' Gardens/Lunch
 - Car pool leaves Home Depot Park and Ride at 9:45.
 - Gardens include Jane Donelon, Claudia Knox, Alison Harris, Jean Herlihy, and Henry D'Allesandris and Marty Perry.
 - Lunch on lawn between Alison and Claudia's. Bring your own lunch and possibly a lawn chair. Hostesses will provide drinks and desserts.
 - Open to members and friends of members.
 - More comprehensive flyer is attached.
- July 21 – Camden Garden Club Home and Garden Tour
- July 22 – Boothbay Region Garden Club Garden Tour

Meeting was adjourned at 1:35.

Today's Program was "Bats of Maine", presented by Logan Parker of the Maine Lakes Resource Center. He educated us on the types of bats in Maine, myths about bats, their habits, their value to man both health-wise and agriculturally, and the White Nose Syndrome (*p. destructans*) that in Maine alone has caused the loss of 90% of the bat population since 2012. He advised us to become an advocate for the protection of bats, to support Maine Audubon which is doing research and conservation measures, to provide bat boxes if we have a suitable summer habitat, and/or to become involved with research by using a BatME tablet to record bat locations.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Neale
Secretary