

TOPSHAM GARDEN CLUB
Meeting Notes
Wednesday, September 11, 2019
at the Topsham Public Library

An informal program on flower arranging was given by Liz Volckening, on *'Making an Arrangement That Pleases the Arranger'*. Liz attended the National Garden Club Flower Arranging School, and judged gardens for the Philadelphia Flower Show. Members brought a container, no taller than 8-10", and the members brought many flowers, which were shared, that have been growing in their garden. The arrangements were used on our lunch tables, and then taken home by the arranger. Fun and enjoyment were had by all and Ann Williams took pictures and thanked her.

A bag lunch followed with deserts and refreshments provided by Fay Eldred, Izzi Johnson, Ruth Johnson & Patsy St. Pierre

Ann Williams called the business meeting to order at 1:25 pm
Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Pledge of Allegiance to the Earth.

Attended: 23 members and 7 guests

Announcements:

Last meeting was a field trip to Tide water Farm Gardens (part of University of Maine Cooperative Extension), which offers many different programs and landscape settings. Located off of Depot Road in Falmouth. Open from sunrise to sunset, great for sunsets by the water.

Liz Volckening's birthday was announced followed by singing happy birthday.

The Garden Club Federation of Maine will have its 88th Annual Fall Conference on Thursday, October 31st at the Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, ME. Vicky Marr encouraged everyone to attend for great fun and a very good experience. Use one registration form per person to register. Deadline is October 15th. *Conference registration forms will be accepted by mail only.*

Speakers will be:

Jeff O'Donal from O'Donal's Nursery in Gorham –all about Barth Daylilies.

Kevin Leavitt also known as Farmer Kev CSA, organic garden market specialist will speak about trends in growing vegetables and meatless Mondays.

Opportunity Drawing Tables: Each district is asked to donate two items, each with a minimum value of \$25, for the opportunity drawing table.

Resale Table: GCFM will have a table for gently used items. Please price the items you bring before dropping them off at the table, and pick up any unsold items at the end of the conference.

The 3rd New England Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Meeting will be held at the Woodstock Inn and Resort in Woodstock, VT on October 28 and 29, 2019. Registration form is available on their web site but, they must be mailed, *No phone or email registrations.*

NEGC October 13,14, 2020 at *Village by the Sea Resort* in Wells.

Treasurer's Report:

Alison Harris reported that we have \$955.42 in the checking account, \$5,518.20 in the savings account and a bank of \$30 in change for raffles and auctions at meetings. \$150 was added for our blue ribbon at the Topsham Fair. The club received awards for the web site from the state and national garden clubs, thanks to our web designer Alison Harris.

New Business:

Alison Harris & Jean Herlihy advised about the invasive weed that is spreading at the Town Hall gardens. It's spreading fast. Several of the members went to the site after the meeting to become familiar with the plant and pulled as many as possible as they are presently disbursing seeds. A sample has been sent to the Cooperative Extension service for identification.

Marie Neale gave a report with parts of the display from the entry in the Topsham Fair and how '*Watching Our Garden Club Grow*' theme focused on our 85th Anniversary. The fair entry included flowers, plants and documents, pictures and awards through the years since 1934. The club won First Prize and \$150! Marie thanked everyone who contributed and helped to make it successful. And thanked Alison Harris who produced the photos.

Patsy St. Pierre asked about the watering trough and discussion ensued. At this time, it is not the responsibility of the club to maintain according to Ann Williams. Jean Herlihy has spoken to Pam LeDuc at the town hall and confirmed that the club is no longer responsible; however, the town has not made necessary repairs. It was suggested that the club become responsible again, even though it was said that it is a challenge to take care of it and is thought to be attractive. A vote was taken and carried that the club will maintain it for planting and watering.

Jean said she will call Pam to find out if the town will make repairs on the trough. Signage was discussed. Alison Harris is the producer for this project and will work on it over the winter.

Alison Harris said the plastic kitty litter containers are great for water carrying in the car because they have a screw lid.

Ann thanked Liz Volckening as Vice President and Louise Burgess as Secretary for stepping in to these positions.

Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens is putting on a scarecrow contest, entries will be accepted through Friday, September 13. It was determined that the club would not enter this year due to late awareness of it, but will place it on the agenda for next late spring. Everyone was encouraged to visit this year to help us with next year's participation.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 12:00 Noon
Our program will be given by Master Gardener Jean Potuchek, Jean's Garden, blog ("Invasive Plants and the Challenge of Ethical Gardening").

Reminder: October hostesses are Alison & Rosalind Harris, Jane Littlefield, Carla Rensenbrink & Jane Scease

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Burgess, Secretary

**TOPSHAM GARDEN CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
September 11, 2019**

Checking Account Balance (as of September 11, 2019)	\$955.42
Bank for Raffles & Auctions at Meetings	30.00
Savings Account Balance (as of June 30, 2019)	\$5,518.20**

*** The Savings Account balance includes \$206.35 transferred from Norway Savings Bank in January 2010, \$1,500 for a "Rainy Day Fund;" balance of \$3,811.85 represents operating surplus accumulated plus interest earned since 2012.*

Membership:

We currently have 45 members for the June 1, 2019-May 31, 2020 year.

Dues (new or renewing members), as adopted in the 2019 budget, remain \$20 for an individual or \$30 for two members of the same household. Members joining December 1 or later paid half price until the April Annual Meeting when all dues collected are applied to the following year.

Fiscal Activity since July 10, 2019 Treasurer's Report

- Income
 - 40.00 Dues
 - 150.00 Topsham Fair prize
 - \$190.00 Total Income**
- Expenses
 - 75.00 St Charles meeting room for 7/10/19 program
 - 50.00 Program fee for 7/10/19 program on bees
 - 180.00 GGCFm dues (45 members x \$4)
 - 25.00 GCFM website fee
 - 33.12 Yearbook mailing expenses
 - 50.00 U Maine Co-op Extension donation for 8/14/19
 - Tidewater Farm tour
 - 57.97 Plants for Town Hall garden
 - 12.66 Acrylic frames for exhibits
 - 37.95 Color toner for Topsham Fair and other printing
 - \$521.70 Total Expenses**
- Savings Account Interest:
 - .50 July 2019 interest
 - .45 August 2019 interest
 - \$0.95 Total Interest**

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Harris, Treasurer