

Minutes—Topsham Garden Club --- February 11, 2020

Program presented by Beth Bisson (Assoc. Dir. Maine Sea Grant College Program) on ‘Signs of the Seasons: a New England Phenology Monitoring Program. [Definition of phenology: the seasonal life cycles changes of plants and animals.] Beth talked about the importance of local monitoring of these seasonal events involving thirteen (13) different species of common plants, insects, birds and invertebrates, and linking them with temperature. This group is collecting data to feed into a national data bank (see *Nature’s Notebook* at https://www.usanpn.org/natures_notebook) that then can be used by scientists studying bits and pieces of the whole data set. She is looking for volunteers to monitor as small a data set as one plant or tree in one’s yard by checking visible changes from the middle of February to the end of November. Excellent program!

Business Meeting:

- Call to Order about 1:30 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance to the Earth (booklet)
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Announcements:
 - **Thanks to hostesses** for beautiful Valentine’s Day spread!
 - Claudia asked us to announce an **Open House** of Brunswick Maine Street “Streetscape Design Project”
 - When: Thursday February 13, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm
 - Where: Brunswick Town Hall
 - What: Looking for citizen input on bringing conformity to sidewalks. Discussing taking out mature trees (Claudia is especially concerned about the huge Red Oak by the Bank of America which would be in jeopardy), planting uniform trees, and levelling sidewalks
 - GCFM is offering a **Master Gardeners’ Program**. **Registration closes February 15!**
 - When: Monday afternoons 1-4:30, March 30-June 8 and August 24-Oct.26
 - Where: Topsham Public Library
 - Register at Androscoggin/Sagadahoc County website.
 - Fees will be refunded by the Medomak District of GCFM upon completion of the program!
 - **Kerry Ann Mendez** will talk in Freeport on Saturday February 29. *Garden Design 101 and Remarkable Plants* at the Freeport Library in Freeport, ME. The 3-hour program runs from 9:00 a.m. - Noon. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Fee: \$45
 - Michelle Borodinsky spoke about the upcoming **Maine Garden Day**.
 - When: Saturday March 14
 - Where: Lewiston High School
 - Registration Fee: \$60/person, includes lunch. **Registration closes February 20**

- For more information and to register, google 'Information Maine Garden Day 2020' (<https://extension.umaine.edu/gardening/maine-garden-day/>)
 - **Maine Flower Show**
 - When: Wednesday March 25 (evening premier opening)
 - Thursday Mar. 26 (10:00 am-6:00 pm)
 - Friday Mar. 27 (10:00 am-6:00 pm)
 - Saturday Mar. 28 (10:00 am-7:00 pm)
 - Sunday Mar. 29 (10:00 am-5:00 pm)
 - Where: Thompson's Point Landing
 - Parking and shuttle service included with price of ticket (Seniors: \$15.00 w/ \$2 Discount). Alison recommended taking either the Breeze bus or the Northeaster train @ \$1.50 each way, from the Brunswick station to the Portland Transportation Center and the walking to the show. Parking with shuttle, if you drive, is at Maine Mall or Italian Heritage Center.
 - **'Art in Bloom'**: Alison announced that 'Art in Bloom' is at the Portland Art Museum until February 16, and she highly recommends it.
- **Treasurer's Report, including Approval of the Budget for 2020** (retroactive to January 1, 2020. Note: going forward, this should be done in November).
 - Alison presented the draft of the 2020 Treasurer's Report, which had been approved by the Executive Committee at their January 8 meeting.
 - 2020 Budget was approved by unanimous vote.
- **Program Inserts** handed out by Alison. These include membership updates, programs, committee assignments and more thru December 2020
- **Committee Reports:**
 - **Garden Tending:** Nancy Simboli started the Garden Tending sign-up sheet for this coming spring/summer/fall. Instructions are found on our award-winning website (<http://www.topshamgardenclub.com/>). Nancy urged new members to sign up with someone who has done it before.
 - **Plant Sale:**
 - When: Saturday June 6, 9:00 am-12:00 pm
 - Where: Topsham Municipal Offices, Main St.
 - We will need help, I hope, moving left-over plants from the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust sale on May 30 donated for our sale.
 - Check germination times of seeds you start at home so they will be ready for sale.
 - Houseplants will be most welcome! Please divide and pot up so they will be ready.
 - Thanks to Patsy and prospective new member Debby Miller for growing in their greenhouses.
- **Other Old Business?** None
- **Other New Business?** None
- **Adjourned** 2:20 pm

Submitted by Ann Williams

**TOPSHAM GARDEN CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
February 12, 2020**

Checking Account Balance (as of February 8, 2020)	\$778.01
Bank for Raffles & Auctions at Meetings	30.00
Savings Account Balance (as of January 31, 2020)	\$5,520.53**

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

Membership:

We currently have 48 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 January 8, 2020 Treasurer's Report

- Income

0.00	None
0.00	Total Income
- Expenses

100.00	Program fee for "Conifers of Monhegan" (Jan)
\$100.00	Total Expenses
- Savings Account Interest:

.47	January 2020 interest
\$0.47	Total Interest

2019 Year-End Report

	2019 BUDGET	2019 ACTUAL
Checking Account - Jan 1, 2019	4,677.16	4,795.43
Savings Account - Jan 1, 2019	2,514.97	2,514.97
TOTAL BALANCE	7,192.13	7,310.40

Income	2,400.00	3,241.35
GoDaddy refund for overcharges	0	419.40
Recurring expenses	(3,254.00)	(2,517.35)
Misc one-time expenses	(700.00)	(30.82)
Riverwalk bench	0	(2,000.00)
TOTAL 2019 ACTIVITY	(1,554.00)	(887.42)

Checking Account - Dec 31, 2019	3,123.16	908.01
Savings Account - Dec 31, 2019	2,517.49	5,520.06
TOTAL BALANCE	5,640.65	6,428.07

2020 Proposed Budget (recommended by the Executive Committee)

	2020 BUDGET
Checking Account - Jan 1, 2020	908.01
Savings Account - Jan 1, 2019	5,520.06
TOTAL BALANCE	6,428.07

Income	2,440.00
Recurring expenses	(3,310.00)
2020 OPERATING DEFICIT	(870.00)

Misc one-time expenses	(650.00)
TOTAL 2020 ACTIVITY	(1,520.00)

Checking Account - Dec 31, 2020	38.01
Savings Account - Dec 31, 2019	4874.86
TOTAL BALANCE	4,912.87

Key Income Assumptions:

- * 50 members
- * Conservative estimates for Plant Sale & Christmas Auction
- * No change in Raffle net
- * Blue ribbon at Topsham Fair

Key Recurring Expense Assumptions:

- * Increase in Program/Field Trip fees
- * No change in recurring garden expenses
- * No change in donations made
- * Bookmarks for ME Garden Day, ME Flower Show & Medomak

Key One-Time Expense Assumptions

- * Two new planters for Library
- * \$200 for other one-time garden improvements
- * \$250 for signs in gardens

2020 Budget Results:

- * \$870 operating deficit for 2020 covered by 2019 end-of year checking balance of \$908.01
- * \$650 budgeted one-time expenses for 2020 covered by savings account

Observations:

- * Budget is conservative (low income/high expenses) based on recent history
- * We have ended year with surplus in all but one year since 2008.
- * We are cash-rich now but using surplus to cover annual operating deficit is unwise long-term
- * We will have additional Yearbook expense in 2021

Detailed “2019 End-of-Year Report” and “2020 Proposed Budget” are available in hard copy at the February meeting and electronically by request to alison@harbart.net.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Harris, Treasurer