

**Venice Area Garden Club
Members Meeting
April 4, 2013**

President *Susan Mather* called the April members meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Joan Piper led the invocation followed by The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the USA led by *Susan Mather*.

Guests and visitors were introduced and welcomed.

Recording Secretary's Report: (*Carol Malott*)

-Minutes of our last membership meeting on March 7, 2013 are posted on the website, approved and filed. A few hard copies are available at the welcome table for those without internet.

Treasurer's Report: (*Susan DiNapoli*)

-The Budget Report for 2013-14 was presented. It is due to come into effect on June 1. It was approved by the board of directors.

-*Susan DiNapoli* reported that the Budget Committee was hosted by *Tracy Ivey* and also included *Sandy Walters*, chairperson, and *Jan Fessler*, and *Lynn Macedonio*. *Susan DiNapoli* wasn't able to attend.

President's Report: (*Susan Mather*)

-*Susan Mather* has been busy with home tour, floral design class, gardening study class, and an event at the historical society this past Saturday.

Vice President's Report: (*Bea Holt*)

-Our scheduled speaker for today was in the emergency room last night and will not be able to give today's presentation.

-*Susan Mather* announced that we can use this time to speak about different committees and sign up for committees for next year.

-*Bea Holt* reported that our speaker for the June meeting at Shamrock Park will be *Ed Wolfenbarger* with a wildlife presentation.

Corresponding Secretary's Report/ Sunshine: (*Rose Fullerton*)

-*Rose Fullerton* announced that she has decided to send information on email to all members as she receives news so we can send cards or give a call.

-A lot of cards have been sent recently to the following members:

-*Cheri Cetone* had a knee replacement and her brother passed away.

-*Lynn Fromer* had a hip replacement.

-*Jeri Congemi* had neck surgery.

-*Lucille Picagli* is recovering from a stroke and has moved permanently to Manor Care (room 129). She can now receive visitors and calls.

- Alice DeSomma had oral surgery.
- Betty Stevenson had gall bladder surgery. Her daughter, Ann Henshaw passed away.
- Susan DiNapoli has been ill but is on the road to recovery.
- Jean Pryor is still going through cancer treatment.
- Jean Smith sent a donation to the scholarship fund in honor of Gladys Susek.
- Nancy Hentsch-Jacobson's son was hit by a car and is staying with her now.

Committee Reports

Adventure Tour/Spring Fling: (Maxine Ginn)

- The itinerary and meal selection sheet were passed out to the 37 people who are going on the trip this year. There is still room for more. We will be going to 2 historical gardens and Amelia Island.
- Sally De Grave will coordinate trips in the future.

Boutique:

- Mary Lou Levy mentioned that in the past we used to have a boutique committee; it was fun making crafty things and Christmas ornaments to sell at the home tour and luncheons.
- Susan Mather reported that it was discontinued due to lack of interest, but it could be started up again. The group met at the Audubon building, and we could still utilize this space.
- People who are interested can sign up.

Civic Beautification: (Carol Sbabo)

- VAGC has 12 garden sites around the city that we take care of.
- We had a wonderful occasion at the Venice Historical Society last Saturday. We added 21 plants to the butterfly garden. Tracy and Larry Ivey replaced the mailbox there which contains butterfly gardening information.
- On April 20 at 9:00 a.m. we will have our next get together with Venice High School Interact and work in the butterfly garden near the baseball field.
- VAGC has 12 gardens in Venice including a butterfly garden near the kiosk in Centennial Park, 2 atriums in city hall, and a butterfly garden in front of the historical society. We did a tour of the gardens this year, and should do another tour next year.
- Maybe the committee could break up into smaller groups to maintain one garden each, instead of everyone meeting for all gardens.
- We need volunteers; please sign up.

Floral Design: (Sandy Walters)

- We had a very good meeting on Tuesday with a lot of people. Designs were made with plant materials from our own gardens and a few flowers from the grocery store.

-*Sandy Walters* showed us how to weave a flax leaf between 2 wires and how to put together 2 aspidistra (cast iron plant) leaves with double-sided tape and wire so they can be bent into interesting shapes.

-Members brought their designs to the meeting today. *Maida Atkins, Peggy Schmidt, Linda Thivierge, Elaine Hudon, Sally De Grave, Susan Mather, Susie Cochran, Emy DeNert,* and *Jeff Parsons* presented and described their designs. *Susie Cochran* made her own special pottery container.

-*Susan Mather* reported that we always have a good time in design class and we learn a lot.

Garden Shop: (*Jan Durr*)

-*Jan Durr* modeled garden shop items. We now have VAGC aprons for \$18.50. A few floral cards are left, with wire flower arrangers for \$5.50, more will be ordered. Gloves are available for \$6 in all sizes, more will be ordered. We have 3 hats left, with adjustable bands to fit everyone--*Linda Kenfield* demonstrated. One Solo mister is left.

-If anyone needs to order anything, let *Jan Durr* know. She will be placing an order over the summer.

-*Jan Durr* said she wanted to thank all the people who help at the home tour, it was very successful. She thanked one person in particular, *Tina Bird*, who was always there to help.

-*Jan Durr* announced that Garden Shop needs help, someone who is here full-time to help start up of the fall season and as needed. All present committee members are here part-time.

-*Susan Mather* thanked *Carol Malott* for all the cookies she baked for the home tour; they all sold.

Gardening Study: (*Maida Atkins and Joan Piper*)

-*Rose Borton* reported that *Maida Atkins* and *Joan Piper* did a lot of work on the gardening study course. We had 22 or 23 people in the last class; 13 people completed all 4 classes, 5 people from our club--*Tina Bird, Rose Borton, Karen O'Brien, Carol Malott,* and *Joan Piper*. Certificates will arrive soon.

-*Susan DiNapoli* mentioned that the course made a good profit for the club.

-*Rose Borton* asked for a show of hands for who would be interested in a landscaping design class; 15 people responded.

Holiday Decorations: (*Rose Rodriguez*)

-*Susan Mather* mentioned that VAGC decorates a holiday tree downtown in the library and decorates the gazebo. *Rose Rodriguez* coordinates these events; please sign up in the back to volunteer to help.

Home Tour: (*Mary Lou Levy, Coordinator, & Pat Markland, Co-coordinator*)

-*Mary Lou Levy* reported that the home tour was a wonderful success. We don't have the final totals, but we made close to \$18,000 and our expenses were under budget, only \$2,556. She thanked all committee heads, hostesses, and everyone involved for the wonderful job.

-We received a card from an attendee thanking us for the home tour, which she read to us.

-Next year will be our 25th home tour. The committee is open to any suggestions to make it a special year; call *Mary Lou Levy* or *Pat Markland*.

-We will be working all summer looking for homes for next year.

Horticulture: (*Carol Mayer*)

-*Carol Mayer* thanked everyone who brought plants and who worked in horticulture for the home tour; we made over \$800.

-*Maida Atkins* will take over Horticulture next year.

-*Maida Atkins* announced that we will be involved in a lot of projects; it will be a fun experience. Everyone in the club contributes to the home tour plant sale. We also have home garden tours.

-Please sign up.

Hospitality: (*Mariann Arlauskas & Karen O'Brien*)

-*Carol Bundy* thanked all the hostesses and *Alice DeSomma*, who made the floral design. Members are reminded to bring 60 pieces when it is their turn to bring food.

-*Susan Mather* announced that there is a signup sheet for bringing sandwiches, etc. to meetings. We ask all members to sign up to contribute.

-*Mariann Arlauskas & Karen O'Brien* will continue to chair Hospitality.

Library: (*Peggy Schmidt*)

-*Peggy Schmidt* thanked *Sandy Walters* for just donating a lovely new book.

-*Peggy Schmidt* will continue taking care of the library, but needs someone to volunteer to be on call to take library books out and put them away at the end of the meeting if she can't be there.

-*Peggy Schmidt* would like to weed out old books that are no longer up to date. *Lorrie Gibson*, *Susie Cochran*, and *Joanna Coke* volunteered to help go through the books.

Membership: (*Dee Feeney*)

-4 new members were welcomed today; they are *Gloria Dinan*, *Kathleen (Katie) Low*, *Barbara McQuaid*, and *Margaret (Maggie) Sherwin*.

-We will have 6 new members next month and we have 2 more applications for the October meeting.

-*Susan Mather* asked us all to reach out to new members.

Scholarship: (*Jan Fessler*)

-The scholarship committee met in March and recommended 3 scholarships which were approved by the board, totaling \$8,000. This will make a total of \$104,000 given in the last 30 years to graduates of Venice High School.

Senior Garden Therapy: (*Joann Crotty & Cheri Cetone*)

-*Joann Crotty* announced that there was a meeting on March 12 with 31 people, about half of them veterans. It was challenging. *Joann Crotty* and *Cheri Cetone* will decide if we need to change the location. We want to continue senior garden therapy, but maybe at a new location.

-*Joann Crotty* announced that she will be stepping down, and *Cheri Cetone* needs a co-chair.

-We have been meeting 4 times a year at the senior center and will continue senior garden therapy, but maybe change the location.

-We need more volunteers.

Old Business

A few raffle tickets are still available for the FFGC raffle; see *Lynn Macedonio*.

Susan Mather reported that *Tina Bird* collected information on 120 trees we have planted.

New Business

Sandy Walters announced that we will have a board meeting at the end of this month. *Susan Mather* is still president, but *Sandy Walters* will be incoming president. We need some more committee people; it will be finalized before the next meeting. We will try to get experienced and new members included.

VAGC dues should be paid today; see *Dee Feeney*.

Lynnie Fromer is collecting money for next month's luncheon today, or you can mail her a check.

Budget

The budget for 2013-14 was passed out and reviewed. We have 3 sustaining memberships to Triangle Inn/ Venice Historical Society, VABI, and Audubon. *Bev Yaros* made a motion to accept the budget as presented, it was seconded, voted on, and approved.

Announcements

Susan Mather announced that we will have a garden tour on Saturday, April 13. Meet behind Bonefish Grill at 8:30, we'll carpool and leave at 9:00. John Goulet of Vision Horticulture will take us to some big homes off Blackburn Road on Casey Key.

Tracy Ivey announced that Lemon Bay Garden Club (in Englewood at 480 Yale Street) is having a flower show this week-end, 2-5 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. They also have good plants to sell.

Susan Mather said that it would be really nice to go and support them. They also have a great garden tour in the fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Submitted by,
Carol Malott
Recording Secretary