

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF VERMONT, INC.
71ST ANNUAL MEETING
MINUTES, JUNE 9, 2008
HILDENE, MANCHESTER, VERMONT

The President of FGCV, Susan Robinson, called the meeting to order at 9:43.

Marie DeVito, Arlington GC, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Frankie Gibson, Brattleboro GC, read a collect in which the author stated that the “beauty of gardens should be shared with all mankind.”

Southern District Director, Nancy Boardman, Arlington GC, gave the Welcome by the Southern District. She thanked the GC of Manchester and the Green Mountain GC for the centerpieces, the Newfane GC for the place cards and nametags, and the Arlington GC for registration help.

Nancy also gave the credentials report:

5 State Presidents

7 Past State Presidents

14 Club Presidents

37 Past Club Presidents

3 District Directors

9 Past District Directors

1 NEK Director

19 National Life Members

19 State Life Members

9 National Board Members

23 State Board Members

Total attendance was 120 people, and 16 of the 18 FGCV member clubs were represented.

The response was given by Central District Director, Gay Gaston, Randolph GC. She announced that the fall meeting will take place on Mon., Oct. 6 at the Castle in Ludlow.

President Sue Robinson introduced the following guests: Sonia Cianchette, Director of the New England Region of NGC, from Maine and the NE State Presidents: Shirlene Gosline, Maine; Celeste Wilson, Mass.; Joyce Kimball, NH and Lynne Merrill, RI. She also introduced the table of Past Presidents of FGCV, Sue Saul ('83-'85), Marge Wilbur ('93-'95), Pam Hebert ('95-'97), Bobbie Mankey ('99-'01), Frankie Gibson ('01-'03), Caroline Frey ('03-'05) and Elaine Dates ('05-'07.)

The Chair entertained a request by the Minutes Review Committee that the reading of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting, June 4, 2007 be waived by General Consent. This was seconded and approved by the majority. President Sue Robinson presented the Minutes

Review Committee for the annual meeting: Carol Munson and Carolyn Smith, Manchester GC.

Treasurer's Report: Pat Durfee reported that expenses are currently running ahead of income by \$889.41. For this reason, the Ways and Means Committee will be auctioning attractive theme baskets made by Helen Long at the conclusion of the meeting. Pat stated that our accounts are being clobbered by the low interest rates and that the Executive Board will have a real challenge in preparing the budget for next year. (report attached)

Old Business.

1. Rec. Secy Stephanie Hockensmith reread the Executive Board Recommendations from 8/07, warned at the last two State Meetings, and written in the Minutes in the Leaf:

1st Recommendation

The Executive Board of the FGCV recommends that Mountain Gardeners Garden Club be moved from the Northern District to the Central District.

2nd Recommendation

The Executive Board of the FGCV recommends that #9 and #10 under Policy and Procedures be removed as they deal with the District distribution of state meetings: #9: Northern and Southern directors traditionally host every other annual meeting at the request of the president, enlisting as much club participation as possible from the presiding district. #10: Central director traditionally hosts the spring and fall board meetings, utilizing information provided in FGCV annual meetings, listed in this Handbook. The suggested replacement for this P and P is: each district will host two meetings during a FGCV President's 2 year term, the selection to be decided upon by the three District Directors themselves.

3rd Recommendation

The Executive Board of the FGCV recommends that the Spring and Fall state Meetings be called Spring Meeting and Fall Meeting, not Spring Board meeting and Fall Board meeting.

All 3 recommendations passed unanimously.

New Business.

President Sue Robinson announced that the new webmaster is Bryan Thomlison, NGC Webmaster (BryanThomlison@gmail.com). Sue asked that all notices going on the website be sent to her for board approval.

Committee Chairmen Reports:

President Sue Robinson introduced timekeeper Jane Marino.

1. Woodsy Owl/Smokey Bear: Elaine Dates brought the posters of the 5 Vt. Winners for display. One poster from a student in the GC of Manchester was sent on to the National Contest, where it won a national award. Elaine has prepared certificates for each entrant.

Elaine encouraged members to approach any child to enter the poetry/prose contest in the coming year. (report attached)

2. Asst. Treasurer: Sally Ayrey reminded each club that they must file the electronic post card to the IRS to retain their 501C3 status under the umbrella of the FGCV. Clubs who fail to file 3 years in a row may lose their non-profit status.

3. Grandma and Grandpa's Garden: Jan De Sarno reminded members that the gardens at the Vermont Garden Park, including Grandma and Grandpa's Garden, will be part of the prestigious Flynn Garden Tour on Sun. July 13. More info and tickets can be found on the website www.flynncenter.org

Jan reminded members of the workdays in the garden on the first Thursday of each month, and she encouraged clubs to schedule a trip to the Vermont Garden Park as a club meeting. She announced that a sign has been made with the poem "Walking with Grandma and Grandpa" for the garden. (report attached)

4. Invasives Educational Project: Dot Closs, Chair of Invasives and Endangered Plant Species, defined an invasive as a species not native to VT with the potential to do environmental and economic harm because it competes with native plants for moisture and nutrients. Native plants existed in pre-colonial America and are indigenous to a particular area. For example, a single plant of purple loosestrife can produce 2 million seeds. Invasives chosen by clubs as an educational exhibit, include Asiatic bittersweet, chervil, shiny buckthorn and bishop's weed.

Announcements

1. **Randolph GC flower show**-Gay Gaston announced the 42nd annual flower show Aug. 2,3 (Sat., Sun.) at Chandler Music Hall gallery. She encouraged members to bring arrangements between 8:30 and noon on Saturday, and to attend between noon and 4:00. For full information, contact the Randolph Garden Club.
2. President Sue Robinson announced the first **Burlington GC flower show** in 25 years on June 13.
3. Rita Langlais announced the **St Alban's GC Flower** show on July 31.
4. President Sue Robinson reminded members to do their **Book of Awards** when putting on a flower show.
5. Sue announced that the **speaker at the fall meeting** on Oct. 6 at the Castle in Ludlow will be Scott Tilden. His subject will be the influence of Persian Gardens on NE gardens.
6. Rita Chernak encouraged members to consider a state life membership for \$25. The proceeds go into the coffers for scholarships. The membership may be for oneself or given as a gift. A new, smaller but similar pin to the current one is being designed. There will be a luncheon for state life members on July 14 in Waitsfield at the Bundy Center of the Arts. Currently there are 14 members who are National Life members. The cost is \$200.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30.

John Forti, Curator of Historic Landscape at Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth, NH gave an interesting slide presentation on heirloom plants of the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. He also collected plant clippings from Sue Robinson's garden and from the gardens at Hildene for members to identify, and he explained the use of each.

During the Social Hour, members were free to stroll through the gardens. We especially admired the peonies and the gardens which are arranged in a stained glass window pattern.

After a delicious lunch of cold salads, the Awards were presented.

Joan Gates, **Garden Therapy Chair**, gave a 1st place award to the Springfield Club and a second place award to the St. Alban's Club.

Elaine Dates gave **Woodsy Owl** certificates to the Manchester, Burlington and Newfane Clubs.

Marge Masino, Four Seasons GC and **Awards Chair**, presented awards to the Burlington, Four Seasons, Middlebury, Mountain Gardeners, Poultney, Randolph, Rutland and Springfield Garden Clubs (report attached).

The **Vt. Judges Council** gave 3 awards to clubs who best promoted floral creativity within the garden club or community.

1. Randolph: honorable mention
2. Middlebury: a 'creative vase'
3. Rutland: a 'creative vase'

Jennifer Hanlon, Four Season GC and **Scholarship Chair**, introduced S'ra DeSantis, who won the Mabel Mayforth \$1,000 scholarship and a NGC scholarship for \$3500. S'ra is a second year graduate student at UVM and was one of 34 winners from the 50 states.

Ways & Means. Helen Long conducted a live auction of the baskets she had made.

Father's Day- Julia Quimby

Pink Champagne- Patricia Spence

Perfect Princess- Bobbie Mankey

Christmas Hostess with Mostest- David Hockensmith

Chinese Basket- Rena Chernack

Bird house: Pat Durfee

Plants were sold at \$5 each.

Stephanie Hockensmith, Recording Secretary

****Copies of the reports distributed are attached to the Recording Secretary's copy of these minutes.**

