

Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont, Inc.
Fall Meeting
Minutes, October 6, 2008
Castle Hill Resort
Ludlow, Vermont

The President called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m., after welcoming all and thanking the Central District for hosting the meeting.

Rena Chernick, Mt. Gardeners GC, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Mary Webster, Pres. Mt. Gardeners GC read "After Apple Picking" by Robert Frost as the inspirational reading.

Gay Gaston, Central District Director and member of Randolph GC gave the Welcome. The Response was given by Southern District Director Nancy Boardman for the Spring meeting, to be held Monday, April 6 at the Putney Inn.

Pat Kent, Registrar Fall Meeting, Co-Pres. Rutland GC gave the **Credentials** report.

State Presidents-	1
Past State Presidents-	3
Club Presidents-	12
Past Club Presidents-	drop this category
District Directors-	3
Past District Directors-	2
National Board Members-	3
State Board Members-	12
National Life Members-	8
State Life Members-	15
Guests-	2
Total attendance-	57

President Sue Robinson introduced her FGCV Board: Sally Ayrey, Asst. Treasurer, Pat Durfee, Treasurer, Nancy Boardman, Southern District Director, Lisa Perrault, 1st VP, Elaine Dates, Parliamentarian, Stephanie Hockensmith, Recording Secretary, Rita Langlais, Northern District Director, Gay Gaston, Central District Director, Caroline Frey, Corresponding Secretary.

The Spring Minutes Review Committee requested that the reading of the Minutes of the Spring Board Meeting April 7th, 2008, be waived by General Consent.

The Minutes review committee for the Fall Meeting will be Sue Casella and Sue Resnick of the Rutland GC.

Treasurers's Report

Pat Durfee, Treasurer, reported a shortfall in the 2008 budget of \$1009.05.

New Business

1. Sally Ayrey, Asst. Treasurer presented the budget for 2008-2009, noting that the only category which will be increased is the President's Travel Fund, and that Ways & Means will be used to provide part of this increase. The overall budget is reduced from two years ago. It is based on a decrease in membership and a decrease in the expected investment income. The \$60 ad fee has been eliminated, and the expenditure for mailing the Leaf has been deleted since it is now online. President Sue Robinson added that \$2700 will be saved by having the Leaf online. She answered questions about the implications of having the Leaf solely on line, and several suggestions were made:
 - a. Send to all members via email one sheet with all the meeting registration forms for the year.
 - b. Call or email the President to send out a broadcast email of events a club would like publicized.
 - c. Clubs could ask the President to put a memo on the front page of the web site.
 - d. It is the responsibility of the Club president to bring a hard copy of the Leaf to her club's meeting for those members who do not have email.

The budget passed unanimously.

2. Recommendations from the Executive Committee meeting Aug., 2008:
 - a. The Leaf will be an electronic publication starting with the fall issue, 2008.
 - b. Web ads on the home page of our FGCV website will cost \$200 for 1 year, \$100 for 6 months or less
 - c. The 3 District Directors will be responsible for finding members in their district to co-ordinate obtaining the ads as well as the renewal of those web advertisements.
 - d. The \$60 ad money that each club was assessed in the past for The Leaf will be discontinued and monies already paid for this fiscal year will be returned by the Treasurer.

Parliamentarian Elaine Dates noted that recommendation 'a' was included in the budget and had therefore been approved. Recommendations 'b', 'c', and 'd' are matters of policy and do not require a vote.

Comma after 8 below

3. Flower Show report by Joan Gates and Elaine Dates, co-chairs.

The FGCV will sponsor a standard flower show from March 6-8, 2009 at the Champlain Valley Exposition and Fairgrounds, sponsored by Green Works, formerly the VT Nursery and Landscape Association. The theme will be Child's Play, and the co-chairs are especially interested in ideas to encourage youth to become involved. Joan and Elaine are looking for volunteers, and they noted that five clubs have already indicated their interest in being involved. (Report attached.)

4. **Nominating Committee**

Dot Closs, Chair (Southern District), Therese Burton (Central District), Gail Lynch (Northern District) are looking for volunteers to serve on the Board from 2009-2011.

5. **Dates and locations for 2009 meetings**

- A. Spring meeting: April 6, 2009 (Southern District) Putney Inn, Putney, VT
- B. Annual Meeting: June 1, 2009 (Northern District)
- C. Fall Meeting: October 5, 2009 (Central District)

6. **Poultney Garden Club** has dropped out of the FGCV.

7. Sue Robinson reported on the **NGC annual meeting** in Providence, noting that in addition to the business sessions, there were tours of houses and gardens, both public and private. She announced the NGC contest in which the state which grows its membership most will have a new canna named for it.

8. **The New England Regional Meeting** will be held Oct. 17th in Sturbridge. On the 16th, there will be a program on Preservation Gardens, given by Sturbridge personnel.

9. **The spring National Garden Club meeting** will be held in Houston May 14th to 19th. All members are encouraged to attend,

Old Business

1. The **School Garden Projects** Committee needs a Chair. A volunteer would be helpful

2. Those clubs which do not have a website are encouraged to create one.

Committee Chair Reports; timer: Carolyn Katz, Pres. of Newfane GC.

1. Dot Closs, Invasives, asked members to look at display materials she had brought with her.

2. Jan DeSarno reported that **Grandma and Grandpa's Garden** looked beautiful for the Flynn Garden Tour on July 13. Attendance was almost 300 visitors. She announced fall clean-up from 10 a.m. to noon on Thurs., Oct. 23. Workers should bring gloves, tools, and a sandwich. Dessert will be provided. (Report attached.)

3. Elaine Dates, National Chair of the **Smokey Bear Contest** described all the opportunities available for youth from K-12. She encouraged each member to reach out to one (or more) young person (s) in schools or Boy/Girl Scout troops to inform them about the various contests and the prizes they could win. She called attention to the winning posters displayed in the room. (Report attached.)

4. Frankie Gibson, Flower Show School Chairman, announced that Elaine Dates and Maryann Wood have completed the four courses of NGC's Flower Show Judges School. She welcomed anyone interested in becoming a National Garden Club Accredited Flower Show Judge to talk with her, Elaine or Maryann. It was noted that Elaine Dates received a Presidential Award at the NGC fall meeting. (Report attached.)

5. Rena Chernick asked members to encourage all in their clubs to become **State Life members**. The fee of \$25 goes to scholarships, and the life member receives a beautiful blue butterfly pin and is invited to an event in July.

6. Jenn Hanlon, **State Scholarship Chair**, sent packets of 2 scholarship applications for each club. She encouraged clubs to find applicants for these scholarships. (Report attached.)

Speaker: Scott Tilden, The Influence of Persian Gardens on N.E. Gardens. Scott judges Persian gardens to be the most exotic and romantic, and he spent considerable time in research at libraries. The influence of Persian Gardens spread by means of the Arab-Islamic expansion to Spain (Alhambra), Afghanistan, India (Taj Mahal), China and from China to Rome via the Silk Road. The basic element is the 4 fold garden design, 4 squares separated by elevated water channels that serve as gravity fed irrigation. Persian gardens are noted for trees and shrubs rather than for flowers and are not strolling gardens. There are pavilions and platforms from which people contemplate the garden. The garden itself would serve as a setting for cultural presentations or romantic encounters. Often the water channels enter the palace providing unity between the palace and the garden and also forming a cooling system for the palace. A N.E. example of a Persian garden is the Blue Steps of Naumkeage designed by Fletcher Steele in the Berkshires.

Following a **social hour** and delicious **lunch** of pork or haddock, Cathaleen Fitzgerald was the auctioneer for the gorgeous watercolor painting of a water lily later revealed to be the work of Valerie Cleary. In addition to the painting, six white and yellow mums, four pumpkin floral centerpieces and a box of bittersweet were auctioned, for a net donation to the Club's Ways & Means of \$350.

Sally Ayrey reminded clubs that the IRS form 990N e post card must be filed by Nov. 1 for those clubs whose fiscal years ends June 30. This form is to be used by clubs whose profits do not exceed \$25,000. Next year there will be no courtesy reminders of the need to file as clubs will be expected to take on this responsibility.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Hockensmith

Recording Secretary