

Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont, Inc.
Spring Meeting
Minutes, April 7, 2008
Shore Acres, North Hero, Vermont

The President called the meeting to order at 9:30 and extended a welcome on behalf of the Northern District.

Stephen Dates led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. Sue Robinson substituted for Joan Gates in giving the inspirational reading from Wildflower Expressions. She read two poems welcoming spring.

Rita Langlais gave the Welcome from the Northern District and introduced President Sue Robinson and her Board (seated from right to left at the head table): Rita Langlais, Northern District Director; Glenda Clark, 2nd VP; Lisa Perrault, 1st VP; Elaine Dates, Parliamentarian; Sue Robinson, President; Pat Durfee, Treasurer; Stephanie Hockensmith, Recording Secretary; Caroline Frey, Corresponding Secretary and Head of Protocol; Gay Gaston, Central District Director. Liz Krieg, the guest speaker was also seated at the head table.

The Response was given by Sue Robinson for Nancy Boardman, Southern District Director. The annual meeting will be held Monday, June 9 at Hildene in Manchester. John Forti of Strawberry Banke will be the guest speaker. The many varieties of peonies will be at their peak, and there will be a tour for interested members after the meeting. Rita Langlais gave the following credentials report:

National Life Members: 7

National Board Members: 3

State President: 1

State Life Members: 14

State Board Members: 8

District Directors: 2

Club Presidents: 7

Past State Presidents: 2

Past District Directors: 4

Club members: 48

Guests: 3

Total Present: 51

The Chair entertained a request by the Minutes Review Committee that the reading of the Minutes of the Fall Meeting Oct. 9, 2007 in Brandon be waived by General Consent. Passed.

President Sue Robinson presented the Minutes Review Committee for the spring meeting: Sue Talmadge and Ruth Ziske.

Treasurer's Report:

Fiscal Report: Pat Durfee reported that expenses for the year are within budget. (Report attached).

Corresponding Secretary's Report: Caroline Frey submitted a written report stating that the following people have accepted the FGCV invitation to the June 2008 Annual Meeting at Hildene:

NE Regional Director Sonia Cianchette
 NH President Joyce Kimball
 RI President Lynne Merrill
 MA President Celeste Wilson.

Old Business:

Stephanie Hockensmith, Recording Secretary, reread the Executive Board Recommendations from the Executive Board meeting, 8/07 as a warning for the Annual Meeting June 9, 2008.

- A. To change Mountain Gardeners from Northern District to Central District.
- B. To change the names of the Spring and Fall Board Meetings to Spring and Fall Meetings, dropping the word Board.

New Business:

Vermont Leaf: John Ziske, webmaster, reported that the Leaf is available at the web site. It was also sent snail mail. The total bill for the printing and mailing of the Leaf was \$2,695. The goal is to move toward sending the Leaf online to all members with email addresses. Those without email would continue to receive their issues through the mail

Committee Chairmen Reports:

Joanne Raymond was appointed timekeeper.

Awards: Marge Masino announced that she will hold a workshop at her home on Saturday, April 12. She asked all those planning to attend to let her know. In view of the workshop, Marge has extended the deadline for applications for awards from April 14 to May 1. She asked that a club notify Marge when an application has been sent so that she can watch for it and assure that it arrives in a timely manner.

Vermont Garden Park: Jan DeSarno announced that Grandma and Grandpa's garden will be part of the prestigious Flynn Garden Tour on Sunday, July 13. We can be proud of this, as only the best of the area are chosen. Jan also asked the presidents of all clubs within reasonable driving distance to send the 2008 Gardening Schedule notice via Phone Committee, Newsletter, or email to all members of their clubs. Gardening begins at 10 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month, June through October with rain dates the next day, Friday at 1 p.m. Jan also asked that each club let her know how many will attend each gardening session as dessert will be provided (report attached). Jan read two poems called "Elder Solution" and "Walking with Grandma and Grandpa". There was a request that the poems be emailed, and President Sue Robinson said that she would do so.

Garden Therapy: Elaine Dates, representing Joan Gates, encouraged clubs to apply for an award in the Garden Therapy program. She stressed that applying was not as difficult as making a book of evidence, and directions for how to apply are in the March Vermont

Leaf on page 7. Awards are made from the accrued interest from our Garden Therapy Trust Fund and will be awarded at the annual Meeting to the club or clubs which are judged to have the most effective program. (report attached)

Natives for Vermont: Elaine Dates spoke for Dot Close, Chair of Invasives. Each club is to sign up for one invasive found in Vermont and prepare a display for the Annual Meeting in June. A list of invasives will be posted on the website.

Smokey Bear: Elaine Dates encouraged clubs to approach summer groups, schools, scouts about the Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl poster contest. The information is on the USDA and NGC websites, and Elaine encouraged each club to sponsor at least one poster for the contests.

The Burlington Garden Club will be re-instituting its tradition of flower shows. The first will be held on Friday, June 13. Schedules are available and will be sent to each club president. This will be a basic flower show, and all FGCV members are encouraged to register with Jean Henshaw to submit entries and/or to attend.

John Ziske, webmaster, spoke about the state website. His responsibility is to put the Leaf and any other pertinent information on the website. All requests to publish information online must be approved by President Sue Robinson before John will put it on the website. Requests should be sent to Sue with a cc. to John. In answer to a question about a general page that anyone can access, Sue explained that it was a good idea to have general information about the state organization and the clubs available to potential members.

Sue reminded members of the user name: **sugar** and the password: **maple** for the state website and the user name **member**, password: **natives** for the NGC website. Sue also stated that the list of club presidents needs to be kept up to date and should be sent to both Sue and John.

Scholarship: Stephanie Hockensmith, representing Jenn Hanlon, announced that the winner for the Mabel Mayforth Scholarship for \$1000 is S'ra DeSantis. She attends UVM and is committed to organic farming and concerns of organic farmers. She is also our Vermont candidate for the National Scholarship; and as soon as Jenn knows anything more, she will let you all know. S'ra is a strong candidate. She will attend the Annual Meeting with Jenn who will also write up an article about S'ra for the Leaf.

Life Membership: Rena Chernick encouraged members to consider State Life Membership at a one-time payment of \$25. The money goes to the Mabel Mayforth Scholarship Fund, whose interest is used for the \$1,000 scholarship. Because of the declining interest rates, the Fund does not generate quite \$1,000, but Treasurer Pat Durfee recommended that the difference be made up out of the treasury since we did not award the scholarship last year. Later in the meeting, a generous donor made up the difference so that we will not have to dip into the treasury to award the scholarship. A July meeting is held for all State Life Members.

National Garden Club life memberships are also available at \$200. National life members attend a special dinner at the annual meeting. Pat Durfee stated that both state and national life memberships are tax deductible.

Announcements:

1. New England Symposium: Betty Barnes, representing Frankie Gibson, Flower Show Chair, announced that the symposium will be held June 9,10,11 in Connecticut. Folders with more information were available at the bar. Profits from the symposium go to the FGCV.

2. National Garden week: President Sue Robinson encouraged each club to put a trifold in the library or an article in the newspaper to get the club recognized during National Garden week, the first week in June. She showed a very attractive poster made by the National Garden Clubs, Inc. More posters were available at the bar.

3. Ways & Means: Mr. Twitter's Garden Club offered 3 floral arrangements displayed on the mantle for a silent auction. There was also a 50/50 raffle. The flower arrangements at each table were made by women in Betty Barnes' workshop (Burlington Garden Club) and were available for purchase. The arrangement for the head table was made by Joanne Raymond.

4. Rita Langlais thanked each club in the Northern District for the chores performed:
 Burlington Garden Club- floral arrangements
 Four Seasons- coordination of displays
 Granite Center- registration table
 St. Alban's- collection of registrations

5. Mary Ann Wood, of the Covered Bridges Club, announced a flower show from July 31-Aug. 2 at the Franklin Col Field Days. She encouraged all those interested in horticulture and design to submit entries, and she is working on a schedule.

6. Rita asked members to look at the **information board about Hildene**.

7. The fall meeting, sponsored by the Central District, will be held on Tuesday, October 7. The location is to be determined. The speaker will be Scott Tilden, author, lecturer on the history of Persian gardens and its influence on New England gardens.

8. The NE Regional Meeting will be held on Oct. 16th and 17th in Sturbridge Village, MA. On the 16th the MA Committee on Historic Preservation will offer classes from 10-3:30 on Heritage Gardens, how to select historically accurate plants.

9. Sue Robinson encouraged clubs to collect members' pennies at meetings for the **Penny Pines Project**, connected to the National Forest Service since 1941. \$68 will plant an acre with pines in forested areas that have been burned or flooded.

10. The **Randolph Club** announced that their 42nd annual flower show will be held Aug. 2, 3 at the Chandler Music Hall Gallery. It celebrates the 100th anniversary of Chandler Music Hall. The theme will be “Chandler Hall Musicals”.

11. The **Burlington Garden Club** in 2009 will be celebrating its 75th anniversary. Ideas on how to mark the occasion would be appreciated.

12. Rita Langlais announced that the Northern District will be hosting the 2009 Annual Meeting. She asked district clubs to suggest a site for the meeting.

13. Sue reiterated her intention to establish a calendar of **rotating meetings** among districts.

14. Final credentials report: see page 1.

The President adjourned the meeting at 10:50 A.M.

Program: Liz Krieg, of Rising Sun Greenhouses and Landscaping in Bethel, VT spoke on the theme of “Rock Gardens for All”. She showed slides of many types of rock gardens, including rock walls in which plants can be inserted. She attributes most rock garden failure to soil that is too rich and wet. Natural rock garden soils are “thin, unfertile, dry and generally inhospitable.” Several tips Liz offered were to choose plants according to the fertility of your soil and their exposure to sun, to bury the rocks partially in the soil at an angle, to stick with rocks from your area and only one type of rock, and to mulch with pea gravel.

A delightful lunch of salmon or chicken followed the program.

Stephanie D. Hockensmith, Secretary

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