**Minutes of Rappahannock Garden Club Meeting**

**April 14, 2016**

**President Bonnie Schaschek welcomed members and guests after which she called on Chaplain Cheryl Brown Davis to bless the food. The hostess committee provided a buffet barbecue luncheon. The committee consisted of chairman Cathie Elliott, Margaret Curtis, Ann Hecht, Margie Redlin, Anne Warner, Sharon Rowe, and Anne O’Bryant.**

**President Bonnie called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. In keeping with the 2016 theme Environmental Stewardship, she said the tip for the month was water conservation in the garden. She shared the following points: plant drought-resistant shrub and plants; use native plants whenever possible, water during the early parts of the day and avoid watering when it is windy, add organic matter to shrubs, flower beds, and lawns, avoid over-watering plants and shrubs because it can diminish plant health, and when hand watering use a variable spray nozzle for targeted watering.**

**Members with April birthdays were recognized. They were Ann Gray Wood, Cathie Elliott, Mary Loftus, and Sandra Harris. Sandra announced to the group that she was seventy-five and Mary announced that she was ninety. Sandra led in the singing of “Happy Birthday.”**

**Old business included the review of minutes and financials from the March meeting that had been posted on the website. Cheryl Brown Davis made a motion, seconded by Deborah Brooks, and approved by the membership that the minutes and financial report be approved. Members were reminded that treasurer Robin Perks is still collecting membership dues.**

**New business included several items for discussion and approval. The first was the need to create a new committee to plan the end-of-year holiday luncheon. Jo Manson will chair the committee and Cheryl Brown Davis, Sandra Harris, and Pam Lazorchak volunteered to serve on the committee. It was announced that Sandra Harris was collecting items for the garden basket sponsored by RGC for the Boys & Girls Club gala on April 16th. The basket will be in the silent auction of items. Members were encouraged to support and attend the event, and if they had items to contribute to the basket to please contact Sandra if they had not already brought them.**

**President Bonnie announced an upcoming event at the Tides entitled “In the Garden Weekend” scheduled for April 29 – May 1. Lisa Ziegler will be there on Sunday, May 1st. The Native Plant Society will be presenting on Saturday. There will also be a segment on Farm to Table. Complete information is on the Tides website. President Bonnie also announced the Just Gardens Tour scheduled for May 20th and May 21st. It is the major fundraiser for the Haven. Three RGC members – Deborah Brooks, Susan Edmonds, Bonnie Schaschek - will have their gardens on tour, and all members are encouraged to support the cause. It was announced that Cathy Carr had opened a new florist in Irvington. She has always been supportive of RGC, so members may want to visit for any floral needs. President Bonnie announced an invitation from the Kilmarnock Garden Club for Tuesday, April 19th at 1:00 p.m. The club is presenting a special program on the art of Ikebana, and two experts will demonstrate.**

**Rappahannock Garden Club received several awards at the District Meeting where pictures were taken of both the district and state award winners. President Bonnie invited past president Cathie Elliott and Deborah Brooks, awards chairman, to assist in presenting the awards. The district awards: Red for Community Garden FHC – Cathie Ward, Red for youth program (Boys & Girls Club Flower Power) – Karen Rosenfeld, Yellow for Yearbook – Margie Redlin, Blue for Membership Club Brochure – Anne Warner, Blue for Newsletter – Anne Warner, and Blue for Website – Carol Clark. The state awards: Red for Newsletter – Anne Warner, Blue for Membership Club Brochure – Anne Warner, and Blue for Website – Carol Clark.**

**A new member was presented to the club and given a gift bag of garden goodies. Mary Hutya, sponsored by Sara Ford, became a full time resident in 2014 when she retired from being vice-president in charge of the event department for a trade association in Reston, Virginia. Mary’s mother instilled a love of gardening in her at a young age. She enjoys container gardening and raised bed gardening. She and her husband Edward enjoy sailing and traveling.**

**President Bonnie reminded members about committee signup on line. She requested that each member sign up once to be a hostess and once to work at the Free Health Clinic garden. She also reminded members that Tami McCauley and Carol Clark would conduct a quick workshop concerning online usage at the conclusion of the meeting. Tami McCauley, second vice-president, encouraged members to use online signup for committees such as hostess, FHC, clerks, guides, and judges. Hostess signup for May indicated a shortage of two hostesses. Barbara Touchette, Sandra Harris, and Joan Eremenko volunteered to fill the positions. Online signup sheet indicated a need for additional workers at the FHC garden. Jenny Boyenga and Muffin Fitzpatrick volunteered to help Sharon Rowe the week of May 1st. For the week of May 8th Pam Lazorchak and Mary Hatyu volunteered to work with Mary Ann McKay. Sandra Harris and Anne O’Bryant will work with Cathie Ward the week of May 15th. There was need for a guide for the May meeting, and Marty Wilson volunteered. President Bonnie mentioned that there is a need to organize the club storage room at Grace. If interested in the project please let Bonnie know.**

**There were several committee requests and reports. Mary Ann McKay, youth program chair, thanked the members who helped at the Boys & Girls Club in March. She reported that Jenny Boyenga showed the youngsters how to make cup arrangements. She said the committee is planning some summer programs after school is out, and she will need help from the club membership for each of the programs. “The Frightened Frog” is an environmental tale about the life cycle of frogs, tadpoles, and amphibians; the effects of the environment on the different life cycles. Cathie Elliott will portray the frightened frog. “Woodsy Owl” and “Smokey the Bear” are also summer programs that will be presented by the youth program committee.**

**Club treasurer Robin Perks stressed that expense reports are due now. She will develop a sheet for each committee chairman to use. It will include purpose of expense, date, description, and amount. A receipt will need to be attached to the report that she needs immediately. The expense form will be added to the website by Carol Clark. Robin said e-mails had been sent to committee chairmen for budget requests and need to be returned to her as soon as possible. She needs to submit the club financial report by May 31st.**

**Jenny Boyenga reported that artistic design components are for sale. She said the design committee would sell them each month. Tami McCauley said that membership lists are still available. Ways and Means Committee will sponsor Burger Night on Wednesday, May 18 at Northern Neck Burger in Kilmarnock. The club will receive 10% of total proceeds for the allotted time.**

**Vice-president Jenny Boyenga introduced the guest speaker, Donna Cottingham. Donna is a master naturalist, nature writer, and nature photographer. She is currently serving as chairman for butterfly and pollinator education on the board of VFGC and is a member of Salisbury Garden Club in Midlothian. Donna’s topic was “Butterflies” that she described as self-propelled flowers. She described the anatomy, behavior, and life cycle of different kinds of butterflies. She said butterfly gardening must have full sun. She said milkweed, either tropical or swamp, is candy to the monarchs. Butterflies love verbena, butterfly bush, sunflowers, and zinnias that bloom all summer into fall. She said the book The Life Cycles of Butterflies is very informative. She recommended two catalogs: “Prairie Nursery” (can be ordered at 800-476-9453) and “Prairie Moon Nursery” (can be ordered at 866-417-8156). At the conclusion of her talk she distributed a butterfly garden to each member.**

**Debbie Burgess reported the results of Horticulture and Food Garden.**

**Horticulture:**

**Debbie Burgess – 10 Blue – 50 points**

**Carol Clark – 3 Blue, 1 Red, 1 Yellow – 20 points**

**Joan Eremenko – 1 Blue – 5 points**

**Mary Jacobs – 1 Blue – 5 points**

**Pam Lazorchak – 1 Red – 3 points**

**Jo Manson – 2 Blue – 10 points**

**Tami McCauley – 3 Blue – 15 points**

**Mary Ann McKay – 3 Blue, 2 Red – 21 points**

**Marge Redlin – 5 Blue – 25 points**

**Karen Rosenfeld – 1 Blue, 1 Red – 8 points**

**Sharon Rowe – 10 Blue plus Best in Show – 60 points**

**Food Garden**

**Carol Clark – 5 Blue – 25 points**

**Joan Eremenko reported results for design.**

**Artistic Design:**

**Jenny Boyenga – 1 Blue – 5 points**

**Carol Clark – 1 Blue plus Best in Show – 15 points**

**Joan Eremenko – 1 Red – 3 points**

**Margie Redlin – 1 Red – 3 points**

**Deborah Brooks made a motion to adjourn. Sharon Rowe seconded the motion that was approved by membership. Time of adjournment was 2:05 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Anne O’Bryant**

**Recording Secretary**