



GARDENERS BY THE SEA

Ocean View Presbyterian Church

November 11, 2016

WELCOME:

President Jean Sewald welcomed members and reminded them to sign in at the welcome table.

PROGRAM:

Vice-President Maureen Ryan introduced Tracy Mulvaney, a Sussex County Master Gardener. Tracy showed us how to use materials from our gardens to create decorations for our homes and gifts for all occasions. Tracy dried flowers for framing, note cards and sachets. She shared recipes for herbed vinegars, spreads, salts and sugars. She showed several creative ways to make and use seed tapes for gifts. She ended her presentation with a demonstration of a Holiday Yule Log.

PRESIDENT:

President Jean Sewald called the meeting to order and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag on Veterans' Day. Janet Thomas introduced her mother as a guest.

Jean asked us to remember several of our members who are in difficult health circumstances: Martha Gallagher, Claire Sileo and Maureen Ryan. She read a thank you note from Claire thanking us for the card sent by our sunshine chair.

Jean announced with regret that Ginny Moushegian has submitted her resignation. In her letter of resignation, Ginny expressed her pleasure participating in GBTS, especially establishing the Youth Program. She shared that Susan Tracey has agreed to assume the chairman role for the Youth Program.

Jean announced that Patricia Powell is our newest member, although unable to attend this meeting.

Jean reminded us that the full moon in November is a Supermoon. On November 14th, the moon will be the closest to the earth since 1948. It will appear 14% larger and 30% brighter. It will be another 18 years, in November 2034, before the moon is this close to earth again.

MINUTES:

Alva Hutchison, secretary, thanked Nancy Hoffman for taking the minutes in October. The minutes of the October meeting were distributed by email. Susie Miller made the motion to accept the minutes as distributed, seconded by Linda Eaton and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Lenora Gentry, Treasurer reported a balance of \$10,978.95 as of October 31, 2016. Deposits included the Wine and Cheese event and deposits from the Longwood Gardens trip.

WELCOME DESIGN:

The Welcome Design is an opportunity to showcase design examples to encourage participation in our June 2917 Flower Show, *Visual Vacation*. Alva Hutchison thanked Ellen Dowling for the wonderful Artistic Crafts Special Display – Walking Tour “Take a Walk in My Shoes”. Ellen and members decorated an assortment of shoes. Ellen did design in a miscalculation. Peggy Udinski did three designs (she is also doing the photography for flower show). Then Judy Stuhl did the fresh flowers in a high heel and Janet Thomas did cowboy boot.

AWARDS AND MEMBERSHIP:

Maureen Eisenhart reported that she submitted for an award our combined September meeting with Barefoot Gardeners featuring speaker Ruth Rogers Clausen. She was pleased to present the Club with a \$50 check in recognition of the award. Maureen submitted 8 award applications for our club and that she submitted an application for the CAR's Perennial Bloom Award for Lisa Arni and Lisa was given a certificate for DE at the CAR Conference recently held in New York.

FLOWER SHOW:

Pat Drizd and Maureen Ryan: *Visual Vacation*, June 23-24 at Salt Pond: Pat reminded everyone that there are sign-up sheets for more members for the various committees. Lenora Gentry shared two examples of possible art work for the Flower Show. Horticulture entries must be purchased, owned and care for by the exhibitor 3 months prior to the Show, so, before March 22nd. Members are reminded that there is a plant sale as part of our Flower Show and to begin propagating & dividing plants for this sale that replaces the annual auction sale usually held at our June meeting. Jean is pleased to announce that 4-5 gardens in Salt Pond have been identified for the Garden Tour on Saturday, June 24th. There will be a small committee meeting on Friday, November 18th at 10 am at Salt Pond Club House

HOSPITALITY:

Nancy Hoffman thanked the hostesses for today's luncheon. Susie Miller was the coordinator and the hostesses were Joan Clow, Nancy Rojewski, Sandy Leahy, Maureen Sherlock and Lenora Gentry. Sandy Leahy did a stunning arrangement in a pumpkin glazed in bronze and filled with fresh fall foliage. Thank you ladies!

HOSPICE TREE:

Sandy Leahy was pleased to share with us a small tree decorated with examples of the many wonderful “icy whites and blue” ornaments the committee have crafted for the Hospice Tree. All of the ornaments are complete and our tree will be decorated on November 30th. The Festival of Trees will be held the first week-end of December at the Delaware Hospice Center on Patriot's Way in Milford. Please consider supporting the event and see our tree which will be auctioned off to benefit the Hospice.

HORTICULTURE MOMENT:

Alva Hutchison shared information about Agapanthus, displaying a photograph that Terry Stea gave her of hummingbirds feeding on the large blue blossoms. The showy blossoms on strap like foliage attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Agapanthus is a perennial known as Lily of the Nile, but in reality it is not a lily, nor is it from the Nile. The plant is native to South Africa. Alva has several varieties of Agapanthus in her yard, including the large *Midnight Blue* with foliage reaching 2 feet tall with flower stalks rising 3 – 4' and a smaller cultivar, *Peter Pan*, about 18 inches tall, both from Monrovia. There are many cultivars of Agapanthus, many are hardy just to zone 8, so it is important to check what you are purchasing and to be aware choosing the setting in your garden. It prefers full sun, likes soil that drains, water well during first growing season to establish deep root system, needs to be fed regularly during blooming season and mulched well for the winter. Does well in containers, moving non-hardy varieties to protected area for the winter. Most varieties are shades of blue and purple, but it is available in white. The spent blossoms and long stems can be dried and spray painted for year-round designs.

WAYS AND MEANS:

Linda Eaton reported that the Wine and Cheese party held at the home of Ria and Joe Carraro on Friday, October 28 was a success. The goal was to have 50 attendees, but the 31 who attended raised \$1,224 to support our many projects. Besides the sale of tickets, \$30 per person, money was raised through the auction of two baskets filled with wine and related items, auction of bottles of wine and one flower arrangement. Thank you to Ria and the committee for a fun evening. This event is held not only as a fund-raiser, but also as an opportunity for members and their spouses/partners to get to know one another. It was a fun evening!

The bus trip to Longwood Gardens is sold out, with a waiting list. We will meet at St. Ann's Catholic Church parking lot in Bethany at 10:45 am on Thursday, December 1st. The ticket did not include the price of your lunch at Buckley's Tavern in Centreville. Come prepared to participate in a 50/50 raffle on the bus and also there will be drawing as a "bonus" from those purchasing tickets for a \$25 gift certificate to the new Big Fish Grill, opening soon on Cedar Neck.

DOLLARS FOR DELAWARE BOTANICAL GARDENS: donations were collected for the Garden. The ground breaking for the Garden will be held on December 1st.

GARDEN THERAPY (corrected, not SUNSHINE):

Kathy Lesperance reported on their project for the CHEER Center in Roxanna. Martha Gallagher provided pumpkins and Kathy and Susan Tracey prepared pumpkins with oasis and brought flowers for the group to make small center pieces. Nancy Hoffman shared a thank you card made by a client to thank Gardeners By the Sea and wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving.

NEXT MEETING:

Maureen Ryan announced that the December meeting will be held on Friday, December 9th, at the South Coastal Library. Last year the membership decided to support a charity, rather than doing the Chinese auction gift exchange. It was decided to support a local Food Bank this year and members should come prepared to make a minimum \$20 donation at the December meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Alva Hutchison

Secretary

