

## *The Lake Minnetonka Garden Club Annual Report*

Kathy Coward, President June 15, 2017 - June 14, 2018 8 meetings, 116 Members

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### **Make It Simpler, Make It Better**

GCA President Dede Petri's challenge to "make it simpler, make it better" shines a light on a goal we all share: spend less time on administrative tasks and more time growing, connecting with others and just having fun. The LMGC has been busy this year creating ways to make our club tasks and communications simpler so that we can focus more on our mission and enjoy each other's company in our fast-changing world. Most notably we launched a **new website** that is more fluid and user-friendly and that will provide more interest to our membership and our community. My extreme gratitude to Nancy Guldberg, our club technology guru, for giving so generously of her time and expertise without which a project of this quality would not have been possible. Thanks also to Sam Muldoon for lending her invaluable communications and marketing know-how to this process and to Mimi Keating for enthusiastically chairing the project research phase in our first year. Access to an online directory, use of a club calendar, paying by credit card, online job descriptions, and an enhanced public page for our community are just a few of the amenities this exciting new website offers. We also updated all Board and Appointed **job descriptions** which will be posted online moving forward and which contain more information on how Committees can work together and support each other's common goals. Over the winter we **tidied up** (without having to use Marie Kondo's *The Life Changing Magic of Tidying*) and tackled our growing collection of past president notebooks and other inherited materials. With the great help from Club Historian, Lisa Melamed, we kept the most important information and also brought our **archives up to date**.

### **60th Anniversary as Founding Partner of the Arboretum**

Sixty years ago the founding acreage to create the Arboretum was purchased with funds raised by the LMGC. Today the Arboretum is the largest public garden in the Upper Midwest. In 2018 we are proud to be celebrating and continuing this important partnership – first, by serving as the Honorary Organization for the Arboretum's Diamond Gala in June, and second, by **launching our Founding the Future: Young Gardeners Initiative 2018** that will help the Arboretum take its innovative pollinator curriculum to children living in communities across our state of Minnesota.

### **Programs**

Our strong program year chaired by Emmie Hester and her assistant Mary Upjohn was kicked off in July with a delightful garden tour. The tour featured Susie Wilson's charming country garden; Bill and Nadine Maguire's impressive formal, Mediterranean-style garden (formerly owned by Marie and DeWalt Ankeny); and Sherry Ann Dayton's lovely shade and perennial gardens, followed by a lunch at the home of Margie and Pete Ankeny. Member Heidi Heiland, owner of the new GrowHaus Nursery, shared the story of her venture of owning and operating a business founded with the vision to green the earth and live lightly on the land. John Thull, viticulturist and vineyard manager at the U of M Horticulture Research Center, introduced us to the rich history of grape breeding and winemaking in Minnesota. Renowned environmentalist J. Drake Hamilton spoke about the impacts of global warming and the rapid evolution of clean energy solutions being spurred by Minnesota innovators. Bonnie Keller and Anne Monroe of Bloombery Floral brought wreathmaking and other floral decorating visions to life at our holiday program. In the spring award-winning author, horticulturist and biologist Heather Holm taught us about the life cycles, nesting sites and best habitats of bees and gardening practices to attract bees and butterflies. Great fun was had by all at the unforgettable Floral Hat Show with Cindy Pratt in May. We ended our year at the beautiful home of Kate Bryant for our annual meeting.

### **Wayzata Depot Garden**

Thank you to the team of Harriett Chute and Nancy Guldberg for their hard work and management of our Wayzata Depot pollinator garden. Now in its third year, the pollinator garden is still a learning experience. Moving forward the goal is to bring it more in scale with the historic Depot building. Changes will include moving some of the more aggressive grasses to the Lake Minnetonka shoreline, adding more color with the addition of pollinator-friendly annuals and adding more bulbs. The Bulb Sale Committee chaired by Sharon Hawkins had a blockbuster year with increased revenues that go to support the Depot Garden and other club projects. In keeping with

our pollinator education focus, Assistants Kate Bryant and Barbara Burgum had a successful trial spring sale of Pollinator Plant Packs containing native perennial plants that members can plant in their own gardens.

### **Other Accomplishments**

We are thrilled that Barbara Burgum's documented garden with photos was accepted into the archives of the American Gardens at the Smithsonian Institute this year thanks to the work of Garden History and Design Chair Tori Gagne and past Chair Emily Johnson. This was the Club's first documented garden since 2003. Pop Up Gardens, a popular new way to see more gardens and enjoy each other's company, had a successful debut year, also managed by Tori Gagne. We are grateful to Alison Humphrey, Chichi Steiner, Kitty Petit and Kandi Osborn for sharing their gardens. • The Club **Scholarship** Committee chaired by Melissa Johnson received a record number of applications this year. **Emily Swanson**, an outstanding graduate student in the Food Science Program at the University of Minnesota, was the recipient of a \$2,500 scholarship. • LMGC member Betsy Massie and SPGC member Colleen Fitzgerald received the first-ever Zone XI Appreciation Award in recognition of their inspiring leadership at the 2016 GCA Annual meeting. • Blooming Exposures, led by Alison Humphrey, met monthly and our club photographers entered flower shows across the country. Nancy Guldborg, earned several awards including a recent first place in Honolulu and Alison with a third place at the Memphis Flower Show. • Communications Chair Samantha Muldoon successfully submitted two placements in the *GCA Bulletin* (Holiday Wreathmaking and Pop Up Gardens) and an article in the Lake Minnetonka Magazine featuring the LMGC Garlic Mustard Pull and has two more articles in the hopper. • Kudos to Horticulture Chair Mary Morrison for spearheading with her team the submission of the Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*) for the GCA Freeman Medal in 2018 which, although it was not selected for the national award, received many favorable comments. • Partners for Plants, a partnership of our Conservation and Horticulture Committees, held its 9th annual Mustard Garlic Pull at Wolsfeld Woods led by Kathy Jones. • Our annual Ways and Means party was organized by Emily Johnson and Pam Ulvestad at the picturesque Parley Lake Winery where we enjoyed tours, award-winning wines and hayrides on a magical moonlit night. • Thank you to Elizabeth Winton for her leadership in creating a stunning Founders Fund *Flowers for Pollinators* proposal that articulates the core of our Founding the Future Initiative. • With appreciation to our Conservation Team, Libby Andrus and Bobbie Dressen, who have kept us up to date with important environmental issues and attended a compelling NAL meeting in February where climate change was a major focus.

### **Membership**

This year we honored ten Associate Members with **first-ever GCA Club Certificates** for 50, 45 and 40 years of enthusiastic service respectfully. The honorees were **Marnie Hartfiel, Marna Fullerton, Norma Phelps (recently deceased), Barbara Savage, Gail See, Betty MacMillan, Marnie Hensel, Margie Ankeny, Renata Winsor and Rusty Huff**. Thank you to Awards Chair Sara Pierson and her assistant Michele Nelson for their help with this special tribute. We also welcomed **Arla Carmichiel** into our club as an **Honorary Member**. For over 30 years Arla has consistently demonstrated her remarkable sense of garden design and plant selection and has provided dedicated leadership in the field of horticulture in our community.

Thanks to the perseverance of Nominating Chair Mary Jackley we have a great slate of new officers and a great class of new members. With pleasure I introduce: Andrea Bassett, Kathi Jo Chappell, Maddy Frecon, Lockie Markusen, Connie Linder and Pamela Pomerantz. Cindy Pratt has requested to become an Associate member. We accepted with regret the resignations of Colleen Grant and Jessie Holm. Libby Andrus, Pat Fernandez and Geren Fauth have become Non-Resident members. We are very saddened by the loss of our dear friends, Cindy Page and Norma Phelps.

### **With Gratitude**

Thank you to the Board and Appointed Committees for your dedication, hard work and new ideas that have energized our membership and our commitment to our mission and to making life better for our garden club. Although I cannot list all of the accomplishments of our club leaders, each of you has made an important contribution. Thank you to our entire membership as well. It was a fabulous year and a privilege to serve you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Coward, President