

Lake Minnetonka Garden Club Vice President Report, 2020 – 2021

Despite Covid sweeping through the country in 2020, the Lake Minnetonka Garden Club stayed active and thrived. As the Vice President of the LMGC, my role is to learn as much as possible about the operations and activities of the Club, promote the interests of our members, and welcome new LMGC members into our Club. It is a wonderful position, giving me a front row seat view of our Club's work and an opportunity to work with many dedicated LMGC members. Through this challenging year, the Lake Minnetonka Garden Club presented engaging and informational programs via Zoom, worked in our beautiful, community-loved Depot Garden, and planned for our Club's 2022 flower show and symposium, Food for Thought. And, as a reflection of LMGC's value to our members and the community, our Club will be joined by a very large group of new members in June, 2021!

2020 New Member Welcome

Our 2020 new LMGC members gathered for an outside and masked lunch on Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020 on the patio at the 925 Restaurant in Wayzata. The new members were joined by Mitzi Magid, LMGC President, and the chairs of the Horticulture (Harriet Chute), Floral Design (Wendy Lee), and Conservation (Sam Muldoon) committees. Everyone had a lovely time meeting each other and connecting names, roles, and faces.

On Thursday, January 21, 2021, we held a Zoom Social with the new members and their sponsors. As an activity, we played LMGC Garden Bingo, where all of the clues on the Bingo cards were gardening tidbits we'd gleaned from a survey. The result was a fun discussion about members' gardens, best books read recently, and silver linings through Covid. It was a nice way to stay connected.

Our 2020 new members will get together a final time to make corsages for our 2021 new members and arrange table flowers for the LMGC Annual Meeting. This gathering, coordinated by our flower design chair, extends a warm welcome to new LMGC members from last year's group.

LMGC Learner and Helper

LMGC kept working and planning through 2020 – 2021! Our Club tackled annual projects like the garlic mustard pull and gardening at the Depot Garden. We held a successful Ways & Means project that will fund our LMGC Scholarship for 2021 and the Scholarship committee chose a dedicated and deserving undergraduate scholar for this year's scholarship award. As we look to the future, LMGC began to explore establishing a LMGC endowment to provide steady and sure funding for our community projects. We also began the planning for a LMGC 2022 Flower Show and Symposium, Food for Thought, to be held in July, 2022 at the Arboretum. This symposium will focus on core interests of LMGC club members in horticulture, conservation, and photography. Our program is well designed with speakers, workshops, and a member social.

The leadership of LMGC persevered through a difficult year and put in place strong leaders for the coming years. The LMGC leadership team will work with our membership to pursue the LMGC mission to advance the love of horticulture, gardening, and conservation through our programs and activities. It is a great compliment to the work of the LMGC and our members that we have a large new member class joining the Club in 2021. It foretells an exciting and meaningful future.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kate Bryant
LMGC Vice President