

Lake Minnetonka Garden Club August 17, 2023, Meeting

The meeting was held at the Wayzata Community Room, Wayzata, Minnesota.

President Kate Bryant called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

Kate thanked the meeting hostesses: Susan Campbell, Lynne McDonough and Larey Swanson, program chair Heather Haeg, and Treasurer Mary Upjohn. Big thank you to Liz Weiner, Awards Chair, for completing the nomination for Becky Rom to receive a GCA Zone XI Conservation Commendation. Mimi Rae, Sally Keating and Heidi Heiland introduced their guests.

Anne Kaufman introduced the beautiful Photography Show Blooming Exposures video, featuring club members photos of the many aspects of water. Lovely !!!!

Meredith Howell encouraged us to sign up for the Wayzata Historical Society on Saturdays, 3 slots left!

Mitzi Magid informed us concerning the National Affairs and Legislation (NAL) 40th Anniversary Conference this past March in Washington, DC. GCA has developed critical position papers, which are public documents on topics of concern to the NAL and Conservation Committee. After homework and meeting with our state representatives, she attended the conference which included 20 speakers. GCA legislative priorities and narrative talking points were helpful information sheets that were developed to assist the conference reps in meeting with state representatives. Mitzi thanked the club for allowing her to attend. She shared how easy it is to see all the NAL information on the GCA website and showed a brief video clip as part of these extensive resources online.

Mimi Rae gave an update on the Depot Garden nettle ensign scale issue. A small task force was formed to assess the problem. Dr. Vera Krischik, entomologist at the U of M, has positively identified the insect and recommended controls such as pymetrozine sold as Endeavor, or flonicamid, sold as Aria, which are systemic but bee friendly. We have contacted commercial applicators to get their estimates for controlling the insect. Rainbow Tree, Davey Tree, Prairie Resto and Bartlett Tree have been contacted. Bartlett has proposed lacewing beneficial insects as a control. Other commercial recommendation are coming. Kate has contacted the city of Wayzata to inform them of the issue. Our club volunteers are not working currently at the Depot Garden until the issue is resolved, and we know we are not spreading the insects. Total resolution is a work in progress; this is an unusual pest for Minnesota.

Shelly McGinnis announced that Faribault Woolen Mills in Excelsior will have a shopping day for the club as a Ways and Means fund raiser on Tues Sept 26 from 10-6 PM. Members will get a 10% off any items purchased and 15% of the proceeds will go to LMGC. Use in person sales or call the shop directly, rather than online.

Heather Haeg introduced Julie Weisenhorn, Extension Educator at the University of Minnesota, whose topic was Plant Selection for Waterwise Gardening. Julie emphasized a greater need for water wise gardening due to extreme weather conditions, heavy rain, drought, record setting high temperatures, etc. Her goal is to inform people how to have a low maintenance landscapes that conserve water and helps the environment. A new Minnesota statute 412.925 is in effect now that states private owners can install and maintain a managed natural landscape.

Xeriscaping is a form of water-efficient landscaping, with many different garden styles. Know your landscape, develop water zones and learn which plants are drought tolerant. We need to first determine our site and then purchase the plants for the site. NOT select a favorite and then put it into what is not the best site. Plant out at least 1 foot from the side of a building. 8 ft deep beds are good and allow access from both sides. Taking a soil test every 3 years is recommended. Use zones for water use, plants that need a lot of water near the house, drought tolerant far away. Water root zones, not the top of plants, use drip hoses and large containers. Mulching can be good but can also encourage cool conditions for problematic jumping worms. Use organic material on site to reduce the risk of bringing in jumping worms. Water deeply. Lawns can live up to 64 days without water, but if you can see your footprints, it's time to water. Julie also covered plant adaptation methods to conserve water. She encouraged us to use the extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden as a resource for all garden needs. Yard and Garden news is an e-news letter that anyone can subscribe see: extension.umn.edu/yardandgardennews. She encouraged us to visit the new Myers Education center at the Farm at the Arb where there is a Foodscape Landscape. Julie's email is jweisenhorn@umn.edu

When questioned about the ensign scale, Julie recommended clean up and dispose of the infected plants or municipal compost. It may be possible to use a systemic insecticide when there are no flowers on the infected plants. She stressed clean up and removal of the infected plants and remove material that may assist in overwintering the insects, such as leaves on the soil.

Kate will be sending Julie's handout via email to members. Julie speaker fee goes into multiple Extension projects. Thank you Julie!

Minutes submitted by Mary Meyer, Recording Secretary.