

November 16, 2023, Lake Minnetonka Garden Club Meeting Minutes

The November meeting was preceded by a floral design workshop with Lu's Blooms owner and designer Kathleen Geherin.

Kate called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM. Much work will happen this winter...look for emails from Kate. Think about inviting new members to the club. Mary Meyer and Nancy Guldberg introduced their guests. Kate introduced guests from the St Paul Garden Club.

Kate thanked Anne Kaufman for her work on the successful photography notecards sale.

Liz Weiner presented the GCA Zone XI Commendation for Conservation award to Becky Rom. Because Becky could not attend the September Zone Meeting in Chicago, we had the opportunity to present the award at this meeting. St Paul Garden Club members who wrote supporting letters were present to see the presentation. Liz thanked Becky for her lifelong work to preserve the Boundary Waters, a national wilderness treasure. In her acceptance speech, Becky recalled and thanked the club for our long-standing support to get the Wilderness Act passed in the 1950's.

Heather Haeg noted the program theme this year is *Rediscovering our Roots*, as she introduced Pete Moe, emeritus Director of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Pete presented a detailed history of the MLA from its rocky start and changes through the years. LMGC was instrumental in the purchase of the original Arboretum land. The unique name of Landscape Arboretum was an idea of Dr. Leon Snyder. LMGC received a Founders Fund Grant to pay for the first MLA Master Plan.

From 'Uncle Fogy' Jack Pine to the 2023 'Kudos' apple, the Arboretum has had many plant introductions. The first tree planted at the Arboretum was the shellbark hickory by Dr Snyder in 1957. 'Autumn Spire' and 'Northwood' red maples are great introductions. The Arboretum has introduced 163 plants: 29 apples, 12 grapes, and 58 ornamental plants. The St Paul Garden Club provided funding for the azalea breeding program that resulted in the Northern Lights series and is still introducing plants today. The LMGC Knot Garden was funded in the 1980s in the Herb Garden area behind the Snyder Building.

Pete covered exhibitions, the International Garden Collaborations program, sustainable gardens, and all the new buildings, and accreditation programs that the Arboretum has achieved. Land acquisition has been successful in obtaining the entire watershed of the Arboretum. Alison Humphrey was a big help in getting the Arboretum's accreditation into the American Alliance of Museums. The Bee and Pollinator Discovery Garden received an endowment gift from LMGC. This garden engages many kids that love collection insects.

LMGC also provided endowment funding for the Center for Plant Conservation for the Minnesota dwarf trout lily, a federally endangered plant. Today the Arboretum has increased

funding for plant conservation especially native orchids.

Kate thanked Pete and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. The meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM.