

Lake Minnetonka Garden Club Meeting August 22, 2024 Wayzata Community Room

President Roberta Dressen called the meeting to order at 1:11 PM. She welcomed members and guests.

Roberta passed out a sign up on behalf of Meredith Howell, Historian, for the Lake Minnetonka Historical Society for the coming year on Saturday mornings.

Debbie Vorpahl has been working on the ways and means fundraiser, which Roberta announced will be held on Wednesday, Sept 25 at JL [McLaughlin store in Wayzata](#) from 12:00-6:00 PM. 15% of our member purchases will come to LMGC for scholarship support. They are also providing a small reception for us during these shopping hours. Mark your calendars.

Nivin MacMillan is again splitting plants: forest grass outside her garage is available.

Nancy Guldberg reminded members to submit photos for two fall projects: notecards and the photo gallery for the Oct meeting. Photos are due tomorrow August 23, 2024. She passed out flyers with specifics for submissions.

Shelley McGinnis announced Friends at MIA lecture on photograph is coming up on Sept 19 and reminded us to renew our Friends membership to support the MIA.

Roberta called on Mary Meyer, recording secretary, who asked for a motion to approve the July 2024 LMGC Meeting Minutes. Heidi Heiland made the motion, seconded by Mimi Keating. No further discussion, motion passed, minutes approved.

Connie Linder introduced her guest.

Connie Linder introduced today's program the Ecology of Green Burials, Return to the Earth Naturally and speaker Mary Thompson of Interra Green Burial, Mueller Memorial Funeral Home, (www.interraburial.com). Connie and Mary met when they were both attending funeral or mortician school. Mary's funeral home is the leading business for green burials in Minnesota, one of two funeral homes in Minnesota that is certified for green burials. The goal of today's program was informational, not persuasion.

Mueller Memorial Funeral Home launched green burials in 2020. Green burials are part of the future and of interest to the younger generation. There are various shades of green burials from pure to more like traditional burials, with different coverings for the body, from totally compostable to a vault with no bottom, so the body is placed on the ground. Cemeteries have their own restrictions and different methods; many require ground weight bearing structures that will minimize sinking ground. Advantages of green burial are reduced consumption of wood, copper, steel and bronze, reduced water and other resources associated with traditional burials.

Flame and aquamation (water) cremation are two different means of cremation. They have similar costs. Aquamation is much more ecofriendly and more soothing for many people than flame cremation. Remembrance stones can be made from cremations.

Body composting is also known as natural organic reduction. See [Return Home](#) website. Bodies can be sent to Washington State to have body composting done. As of July 2025 body composting will be legal in Minnesota, largely due to the work of one individual with the legislature.

Body composting starts with a laying in ceremony with wood chips and alfalfa hay. Microbes break down the body and it is reduced to compost usually in 60-90 days. The compost is then returned to the family for their use.

Mary urged us to write down our wishes for what happens to our bodies upon death, to let family members know our wishes. There are many options. There is a Green Funeral Expo Saturday Oct 19, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM in St Paul.

Members had many questions. Some cemeteries have memorial markers for names of green burials, since there is often no headstone. Costs vary from \$9,000 body composting, \$4600 aquamation; traditional funeral is typically \$15-16,000. Ashes can be moved and dispersed without any state restrictions; a body must be moved and handled by licensed funeral home personnel.

Connie reminded us that next month's program is on September 19 and will be presented by Marilyn Garber founder of Minnesota School of Botanical Arts here at the Wayzata Community Room.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.