

Lake Minnetonka Garden Club Meeting July 18, 2024 The Marsh

President Roberta Dressen called the meeting to order at 1: 09 PM. She welcomed members and guests.

Roberta called on Mary Meyer, Recording Secretary who asked for a motion to approve the June 2024 LMGC Annual Meeting Minutes. Mimi Rae made the motion, seconded by Kate Bryant. No further discussion, motion passed, minutes approved.

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

Anne Kaufman, Photography Chair asked for photo submissions for two fall projects: A Photo Gallery Display for our October 17, 2024 meeting at the Minnetonka Center for the Arts and photo notecards sale this fall. Please send your photos to Nancy Guldberg, nguldberg@gmail.com. Anne handed out an informational sheet for both projects. Blooming Exposures next monthly meeting is July 31 and all are welcome. That meeting is a chance for friendly critique of your images. All members can sign up for the monthly Blooming Exposures email newsletter of tips and photography announcements. August 23, 2024 is the deadline for submitting images for both projects.

Bobbie announced the Annual Yearbooks are available in the back of the room for anyone who has not received theirs.

Bobbie called on Kate Bryant to introduce today's program speakers. Kate introduced Kelly Strada Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, previously Wildlife Section Manager with the MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and John Moriarity, Sr. Wildlife Manager with Three Rivers Parks. Kelly and John shared their work with wildlife management and restoration locally and statewide.

Kelly is grateful for the value Minnesotans places on conservation. She highlighted the mission of the DNR. The Fish and Wildlife Division (FAW) deal with any legally hunted and trapped wildlife. FAW has approximately 560 employees and manages 1.4 million acres of Wildlife Management Areas in all counties except Hennepin and Ramsey. FWA's goal is to maximize wildlife numbers. On the DNR home page you can sign-up for email updates and news and events, such as wild ricing. The main homepage is dnr.state.mn.us and dnr.mn.us/fishwildlife/outreach has a great calendar of what is happening with DNR. Minnesota Outdoor Skills and Stewardship (MOSS) webinars are archived here on many topics, hiking, fishing, birding, etc. Mentor network is also here for anyone who would like to teach/learn about wildlife.

John talked about wildlife of Three Rivers Park (TRP) highlighting the restored prairies in the park district and seed collecting. Only 20% of the upland park area can be developed in any TRP. Management of wildlife habitat is their focus. John shared a map of urbanization

showing that only 3% of the original habitat remains. Canada geese one a big success story, in our lifetimes, their numbers have greatly increased. Today, they are moved and managed to minimize E. coli. Trumpeter swans number more than 50,000 in Minnesota, another success story. Today, they work with populations, not individual wildlife. Refuges have been removed for the swans because restoration is successful. Osprey also are increasing, over 180 nests. Bull snakes are helpful in habitat management since they feed on pocket gophers and rabbits. The snakes help to maintain these populations. Regal fritillaries butterflies only feed on prairie violets. Thousands of prairie violets were planted at Crow Hassen Park Reserve and pregnant regal fritillary butterflies were introduced. Hopefully this species will be successful in establishment at Crow Hassen.

The TRP assists with annual deer surveys in conjunction with DNR, esp. for the metro area. TRP has worked on the SARS Covid human-deer project, the transfer of COVID from humans into deer. 80 deer were caught with the DNR management that now have been radio collared and released in the TRP district and are now dispersed.

Beavers are usually good in their environmental impact and favored. TRP tries to leave wildlife alone unless major damage to residential property. Turkey, fox, coyotes are not managed by TRP. Last 11 years no trapping of coyotes, they are a benefit. There are bears in TRP, John showed a sightings map. Elm Creek Reserve for 5 years had a female bear and cubs. In 2023 the bear had triplets, and one cub was removed to a bear rehab center. Bears do not want to engage with humans. Kelly recommended Bear Wise, a national program on education about bears. She encouraged us to look it up: bearwise.org

TRP has put up 500 bluebird houses. Monitoring wildlife is a main part of what TRP does. Along the Crow River from Dayton to Prescott, the Mississippi wildlife refuge area TRP helps to count eagle nests in late spring and June. In 2010, there were 20 nests and now over 80 within this river area. They also monitor and manage turtle resting beaches and designated areas. Noerenberg Gardens has rusty patch bumblebees. Species of concern: loss of bats due to white nose disease, loss of insects in general. John encouraged us to learn to live with the wildlife we have.

Connie Linder thanked John and Kelly and announced they asked their \$200 speaking honorarium be donated to the Wildlife Foundation for TRP. Connie reminded us that our August meeting is Aug 22, one week later.

Laura encouraged pick up yearbooks and that Susie Wilson has terra cotta pots, please contact her if you want any.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.