

The meeting was preceded by a tour of the Arts Center with Roxanne Heaton. Executive Director. A special feature of this meeting was the Gallery of Art and Photography by club members. Astounding photography, beautiful gallery of artwork.

President Roberta Dressen called the meeting to order at 1:08 PM. She thanked Anne Kaufman for her work on the gallery exhibit. Bobbie welcomed members and guests, especially members of the St Paul Garden Club. including Ann Murphy Zone XI Photography Rep., and Catherine Nicholson.

Mary Meyer asked for a motion to approve the September meeting minutes. Mimi Rae made the motion and Kathy Gillum seconded. Minutes approved. Mary gave an update on the insect that has affected the Depot Garden for the past two years. She announced that the U of M entomologists and MN Dept of Ag sent the insect to the Smithsonian Institute entomologists for positive diagnosis. Their findings are:

***Graminorthezia graminis*** (Tinsley, 1898)

(*Ortheziidae*: *Graminorthezia*); ScaleNet data follows.

**Common Name:** grass ensign scale [Gill1993](#)

**Hosts:** Asteraceae: *Solidago* | [Morris1925](#); Poaceae; [Tinsle1898](#)

**Foes:** Drosophilidae: *Rhinoleucophenga brasiliensis* | [HertinSi1972](#) | (= *Gitona brasiliensis*)

**Geographic Distribution:** USA: California | [Morris1925](#); Idaho | [Morris1952](#); Kansas | [Morris1925](#); New Mexico | [Tinsle1898](#)

This is a first find and a new state record for MN. We did not see this insect in the Depot Garden in 2024 and hopefully we will not see it in the future.

Anne Kaufmann thanked the curatorial team for hanging the gallery exhibit. There were two parts to the exhibit 1) photographs from members, including award winners from recent GCA competitions and 2) flat lay photographs from members who attended a workshop by Mary Jo Hoffman, author of *STILL*. Unfortunately, Mary Jo's home was recently destroyed in a fire. Support for her can be done by purchasing her book(s). *Birds of the Anguilla Bank* co-authored by our own member Becky Fields was also highlighted by Anne. This book is for sale in the Art Center giftshop. Anne reminded us that the deadline is Friday, October 20, 2024 for ordering the photography notecards from members. [Orders can be placed online.](#)

Today's speaker, Michelle Miro Riedel, was introduced by Connie Linder, program chair.

**Photography in Your Garden** was the topic of Michelle's presentation. Her goal was to show how to photograph easy, simple things in your yard and how to create special images from your own property. Michelle is a 2019 winner of the Star Tribune's Best Gardens contest. She welcomes tours of her garden. She uses an iPhone or one of two Nikon cameras. She wants to help us change the way we see nature and our gardens.

**LIGHT**

Best time of day is NOT hot mid-day light, but mid-day is a good time for reflection on water with bright blue sky, OR if you want to highlight a background of bright blue sky. Sun behind

clouds is also good for flower close-ups. Overcast days that show a white sky are good for a clean, clear white background. Golden hour for photography is early AM at sunrise or first hour of light. You can get a black background if you position where the sun has not yet hit. One hour before sunset is also good and can achieve a black background. Nighttime with landscape lighting that can capture interesting photos. Add a flashlight to light up specific plants.

#### WEATHER

No wind is usually good for photos but if you want movement.....dandelion blowing in the wind, etc. shoot on windy days. Rain can be interesting; immediately after can show rain drops and their unique placement on leaves and stems.

Michelle reminded us to display on own photos in our homes....your vegetable photos in your kitchen, take down other peoples photos!

Hoar Frost on cold foggy days can create amazing ice or frost on plants. Rime Ice shows spikey fuzzy look with ice that effect the entire plant. Winter photography can be really cool. Look for snow flowers on sedum! Keep plants up for winter interest.

Michelle shared her best photos of specific subjects, an entire garden, just the plant! Leaves!!and buds instead of the full flower. Try different angles for backgrounds by moving around a plant; try various angles to photograph. Try having less instead of more in your photo. Tilt your camera to show various angles.... straight up is not always the best. Photograph flowers from underneath. Vertical or horizontal position?...let the plant and its setting lead your decision. Verticals are good for cover shots. Rule of thirds is something Michelle uses, quite important and good to remember when you are entering a photo in a show. Take the subject and put in in one of the 4 intersecting points. Snapseed is an ok editing app but she prefers Photoshop on her computer.

Sharing your photos. The best thing to do is share on social media. Instagram is all about sharing photos. Get rid of some else's art and put up yours!!! Do a photo book of your favorite photos each year, use as gifts! Do not be afraid to enter a photo in a Flower Show....STOP being afraid. Ask a club member for help or clarification, on classes, etc. Enter your photos!!!! The best camera is the one you have on you!!

Michelle ended with this quote:

*The goal is not to change your subjects but for the subject to change the photographer.*

Author unknown. Her contact information is: [michelle@riedelphoto.com](mailto:michelle@riedelphoto.com)

Connie reminded the meeting for November is at the Arboretum with a floral design workshop, registration is open online on the club website, capped at 35 for the workshop. The meeting adjourned at 2:28PM.