

Lake Minnetonka Garden Club Meeting September 19, 2024    Wayzata Community Room

Vice President Kate Bryant called the meeting to order at 1:10PM. She welcomed members and guests. Meredith Howell and Kate Bryant introduced their guests.

Kate announced the McLaughlin fundraiser on Thursday, Sept 26 to support the LMGC scholarship fund. Purchases Monday Sept 23 through Friday 27 will qualify, just mention LMGC for 15% of the proceeds to benefit LMGC. Online sales count as well.

Anne Kaufman talked about the upcoming events concerning photography. 18 members have contributed to the photo card sale, order forms were distributed. Orders are due by Oct 20. Use the hard copy form or order online at the club website. Proceeds go to scholarship fund. A special hands-on demonstration showing how to mount your photographs (required for submission for GCA flower shows) will be held Wed. Sept 25 from 12:30-2:00 PM at the Wayzata Library. Bring an 8 x 10 photo for mounting at the workshop. Mounting boards will be supplied. Anne passed around a sign-up sheet for the Sept 25 workshop, RSVP required.

Heidi Heiland announced the GroHaus Oktoberfest this Saturday, Sept 21 will include special sales, food, demonstrations, and baby goats. She distributed flyers for the event.

Meredith Howell passed around the Lake Minnetonka Historical Society sign-ups for archival work.

Nancy Guldberg and Mary Meyer presented information about the recent Shirley Meneice Conference held this week at the Chicago Botanic Garden. The Freeman Medal winner for 2025 is *Quercus montana*, honorable mention went to *Magnolia fraseri*. Ladue Garden Club (Zone XI) won special recognition for their nomination of *Hamamelis vernalis*, the Ozark Witch-hazel. Mary and Nancy will present more from the conference at the November meeting.

Connie Linder introduced Marilyn Garber from the Minnesota School of Botanical Art. Her program was titled The Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Florilegium. Our club has historical roots with early support of the Eloise Butler Garden. This project started in 2010 in coordination with Susan Wilkins, Eloise Butler Garden Director, who helped find a home for the School of Botanical Art at the Longfellow House in Minneapolis, part of the Minneapolis Parks.

The goal of the florilegium is to document the plants of the Eloise Butler Garden. Ancients called the garden the Sacred Grove. A florilegium is a group of paintings made to document a specific time and place, to show what plants were growing at the Eloise Butler Garden. The most famous florilegium is The Banks Florilegium, that contains paintings of James Cooks voyage of the Endeavour.

For the Eloise Butler Florilegium, the artists cannot remove plants or go off the garden paths. It is challenging to get good images or photographs and find the plants. Staff are a big help. Anyone who had taken classes at the Minnesota School of Botanical Arts could apply to be a part of this project. Artists did on site sketches, studio work and then painting on archival paper. 60-100 hours to create one painting is typical. Next paintings are juried by selected expert individuals. The painting has to be accurate and botanically correct, it must be beautiful and show technical quality. This project used the traditional British style with minimal water. Plants had to be revisited throughout the growing season to obtain seasonal changes of the plant, flower, seed or mature fruits. Approximately 50 artists worked from a list of 135 plants, compiled by Susan Wilkins, that were important to the garden. 95% were natural or native plants and others made the list due to their importance to Eloise Butler who founded the garden. Approximately 120 of the 135 original list will be completed.

Marilyn showed many of the beautiful prints of the artists. The paintings have been on exhibition and will be maintained by the City of Minneapolis and archived indefinitely. Marilyn will be closing the School but is continuing to paint and work on the Florilegium. A catalog of the paintings is being prepared to be sold as a fundraiser. Prints for sale to be decided. Marilyn stated that botanical art needs collectors!!!! Connie announced that our club will be donating the speaker fee to Marilyn's project.

Our October meeting will be at the Minnetonka Center for the Arts. The meeting begins with a 1:00 PM tour by the Director of the Art Center, then Michele Mero Riedel will give a photography presentation for the program along with the gallery exhibit of our own members.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM. Minutes submitted by Mary Meyer.