Trailwood Garden Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2017

Club president Gloria Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 7 p.m., thanked previous board members and asked if there were any member concerns to discuss. None were offered. Gloria welcomed new member Patricia Kramer to the group. Twenty-one members were in attendance.

Marie Everett introduced guest speaker Mary Schwark, president of the Michigan Division of the Woman’s National Farm & Garden Association. Ms. Schwark spoke about the history and formation of the Michigan Division, noting that branches are independent – the division does not direct them but rather serves as a resource.

Points of interest in Ms. Schwark’s talk include:

* The WNF&GA was inspired by a similar group in Britain, and was formed in 1914 by Louisa Yeomans King, a Michigan native. King’s papers are housed at Central Michigan University’s Clarke Historical Library. (Here’s [a link to more info at CMU](https://www.cmich.edu/library/clarke/ResearchResources/Michigan_Material_Local/Almas_Gardener_Louisa_King/Pages/default.aspx).)
* The members’ password to the Michigan Division website is Schwark19
* Nationally, membership in the WNF&GA is dwindling, and Michigan is the only state that still has a division office. Michigan has 26 branches with about 1,300 members
* The group is a member of the Associated Country Women of the World, which is headquartered in London and operates the Pennies for Friendship program.
* The WNF&GA’s 2018 meeting will be in the Finger Lakes region of New York State; more [information is available here](https://www.wnfga.org/national-meeting-2018/).
* The WNF&GA has an Angel Fund that may be available to help first-time national meeting attendees with the cost of attending the meeting. Other funds include the Bess Mueller Fund which supports events related to cut flowers.
* A “Take 1 ~ 1 ~ 1” campaign urges members to take at least one friend to one garden meeting at least once a year, to combat declining membership at garden clubs.

Following Ms. Schwark’s talk, club business was addressed:

* Medilodge has declined a scarecrow this year as it frightens one of the residents
* Gloria has entered TGC in a lottery to have a Christmas tree in downtown Plymouth
* Some members will participate in the carved pumpkin display October 28 at the Plymouth library
* Barb Bray recapped discussions about changing the holiday party from a potluck to a restaurant meal. Various local restaurants including Rose’s, Station 885, EG Nick’s have been investigated. General discussion ensued; Shelley Hansen suggested her house is large enough to host the gathering. A committee of Barb, Marilyn, Carol, Ann and Sally will continue to evaluate possibilities for the party.
* The date of the holiday party is in question; some prefer the 2nd Tuesday in December so it’s not too close to Christmas. Ann said that the 12th won’t work for her but that the 19th would. The discussion was tabled.
* Jeannie Hutko volunteered to manage the Pennies for Friendship container, which will be replaced as the location of the current jar is unknown.
* Gloria reminded members that volunteers are needed to decorate Plymouth’s historical museum during the morning of November 1.
* Cathryn Pennebaker reported that she and Shelley Hansen are scouting gardens for next year’s walk, leaving cards at likely homes. Anyone aware of potential gardens should let Cathy and Shelley know.
* Gloria reminded members that we have a new Twitter account, and that for upcoming meetings the agenda will be on the website in order to save paper and copying costs.
* An audit of Trailwood finances is under way.
* Barb Bray has offered to host a new member orientation gathering at her home on October 24.

Nov. 4 “Fall Into the Garden” fundraiser

Gloria reported that the new fundraiser and outreach event will be held in her yard and garage on November 4. The goal is to reach out to prospective members via gardening discussion and advice, and to raise money via the treasures sale. Barb is refurbishing the TGC history display board.

There are numerous ways members can help; please contact Gloria if you are available to assist:

* Donating merchandise (vintage, gently used and handcrafted garden ware, seasonal décor, etc.) for the Garden Treasures sale.
* Donating gently used magazines
* Donating baked goods
* Donating partially used seed packets; seeds will be repackaged and sold
* Working on some crafting mornings
* Devoting a few hours on November 4 to set-up, sales, talking with guests, tear down/cleanup tasks.

Items for the sale may be dropped off at Gloria’s home (8904 Oakview, Plymouth) on November 2 from 9-11 a.m. and November 3 from 4-8 p.m.

Gloria noted that publicity help is needed because we do not have access to the e-mails of past garden walk guests. Melissa is working on social media, community events calendars and a press release. A flyer was distributed to members to post. It would be helpful if those who use Facebook and Twitter would share and disseminate the event description on those sites.

Marie Everett gave an update on the insert for the TGC ring binders; it’s in production. She is waiting to designate speakers for November and April. The group discussed whether to have a guest speaker in April; several ideas were presented and the most popular seemed to be using the April meeting as a crafting session to prepare merchandise for the spring Garden Treasures sale.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Melissa Preddy