

NCGC September General Meeting September 1, 2016

****President** Cheryl Fawvor called the General Meeting to order at 10:00 and welcomed everyone back. She introduced the new 2nd VP for Programs, Claudine Illg, who then introduced the speaker: Lucia Bettler, from Lucia's Garden, on the topic of Aromatherapy.

Lucia delivered a great presentation and ended by mixing up bath salts with Bergamot, Lavender, Clary Sage, Ylang Ylang, and Geranium essential oils. Each attendee left with a small bag of these bath salts.

Cheryl called the business meeting to order after the presentation.

Cheryl presented Certificates of Appreciation to three long-serving members:

Phyllis Hogue – 11 years on the Board and 20 years as our MUD representative. (Cheryl announced that Kathy Glass will now serve in this capacity.)

Pat Chislett – 7 years on the Board.

Marilyn Frueh – 6 years on the Board.

Cheryl thanked Alice Brown for preparing these certificates.

Cheryl then introduced and called on each member of the board to report and welcomed those serving in new positions.

****Secretary:** Linda Warren announced that the approved minutes from May are now posted on the website.

****Treasurer:** Vikki Rogers gave two treasurer's reports:

June 1, 2015 – May 31, 2016:

Starting Balance	\$6,775.86
Income	\$8,019.91
Expenses	\$6,164.34
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Ending Balance	\$8,631.43

June 1, 2016 – Aug. 31, 2016:

Beginning balance	\$8,631.43
Income	\$ 150.00
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 80.00</u>
Current balance	\$8,701.43

Each member was given a copy of the proposed budget for 2016-2017, and Vikki now asked for any questions. Sue Straub asked about the \$1000 budgeted for donations. Vikki explained that the Board voted to do more for the community last year and this year because we are in a strong financial position and part of our mission is to give back to the community. Vikki said that last year we gave \$250 each to the Katy Prairie Conservancy and to the Bayou Preservation Association, but that we are open for suggestions on future recipients. She clarified that even with \$1000 in donations, the club is well able to afford the rest of its functions. Sue also asked for a recap of our Backyard Passions Garden Tour. Vikki stated that we took in \$2,308. After expenses, we still cleared about \$2,000. Finally, Vikki stated that two changes were made after the original approval of the budget by the Board: the Directory cost more, so we upped that amount, and we added a line for Plant Shoppe Revenue.

Cheryl called for a motion to approve the budget as presented. Moved: Mary Ann Clark; seconded: Linda Warren. A vote was called, and the budget was approved.

****Programs:** Mary Lou Proctor and Claudine Illg

Claudine was welcomed as the new 2nd VP for Programs. Next month the program will be Katherine Ashby on "Feng Shui in the Garden."

There will be a Field Trip on Oct. 14 to the Houston Bulb Mart. The sign-up sheet is out today and will be out next month. The cost is \$3, which will pay for the bus driver.

We will meet on Nov. 10 – the 2nd Thursday of the month – rather than the 1st Thursday because the MUD Building will be an election site.

The January meeting will be at Mercer Arboretum.

****Parliamentarian:** Kim Patrick reminded members that the By-laws are in the Directory.

****Fundraising:** Lori Fay/Kim Patrick/Nan Righter

Lori and Nan conducted the drawing for some amazing items. The winners were:

Basket with herbs and wine – Naoko Brittin

Bird Seed and storage tin – Pat Chislett

Bird Bath – Kim Patrick

3 books (donated by the speaker) – Patti Crawford

Croton (donated by Hospitality committee) – Sue Straub

Kim Patrick is now coordinating the Plant Shoppe. If you brought a plant that didn't sell today, please take it home at the end of the meeting.

Lori previewed a prize for next month – a fall wreath donated by Jean Bays.

****Historian:** Margaret St. Clair is new to this position. She asked for a backup photographer for times when she cannot attend. Please see her if you are interested.

****Hospitality:** Pamela Stephen is new to this position. The hostesses for today stood and were thanked. Pamela still needs a few hostesses for upcoming meetings. Please see her to sign up.

****Membership:** Patti Crawford pointed out our new nametags – larger, magnetic, and much easier to see. She thanked Alice Brown for her help with these. Patti explained that we cannot store the nametags and magnets together, so please put the separate pieces in the appropriate boxes at the end of the meeting.

As of today we have 74 paid members, and today we have 47 members in attendance and 2 guests. The guests stood and were welcomed.

****Directory –** Alice Brown passed out the new Directory today. Cheryl thanked her for all her work on this project. Alice announced that an update will be prepared mid-year, so please see her with any additions or changes.

****Newsletter:** Flora Tiedt is new to this position. The Newsletter is out and looking great. Please let her or Cheryl know if you have trouble accessing it.

There is a flyer back on the table with instructions on how to access the two Facebook pages. Flora, Cheryl, and Pat Plesko will be working on Facebook this year. We have a page and also a closed group. Members can post questions, pictures, etc. to the closed group.

****Publicity:** Pat Plesko

Pat sent out notices about our meetings to 16 media outlets. Please let her know if you want our information posted in an additional place.

****Sunshine and Lunch:** Maddy Gardner

Maddy asked the members to keep her posted for the Sunshine cards and notes. Lunch today will be at Las Manitas.

****Horticulture:** Jean Bays thanked the group for the great exhibits brought in today and always. This year we are putting each plant in a separate vase for showing. That way even people in the back can clearly see which plant is being discussed. If you do not have a small vase, Jean will have some available at each meeting.

**** Federation:** Sharon Cecil reminded us that as members of this club, we are automatically also members of the Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. Sharon encouraged everyone to try to attend at least one meeting a year. The next one will be Sept. 9 and the speaker will talk about roses. The social hour is 9:30-10:30, followed by a business meeting. There are always many exhibits.

****New Business:** Cheryl Fawvor announced that we still need a few volunteers: Hospitality and Social Coordinator. This year we hope to have a social gathering in the fall and another in the spring. Please see her if you are interested.

The next meeting will be on October 6.

Thought for the day:

To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.
Audrey Hepburn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47.