

Nottingham Country Garden Club General Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2011

President Susan Straub called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM . Susan welcomed everyone and turned the meeting over to Marilyn Frueh to introduce our speaker, Elizabeth Barrow owner of Papershell Nursery, who spoke on having a "Fabulous Fall" in our gardens and lawns.

After the presentation Susan introduced this year's Board members. Helen Poole was also introduced as the winner of our new club logo winner. All media and correspondence will begin to reflect the new logo.

Secretary Report:

The minutes from the May General Meeting are now posted on the NCGC web site for all to view.

Treasury Report

Gayle Granger reported the balance carried forward from May 11, 2011 was \$2,966.25; reported expenditures of \$399.90 and deposits of \$725. Beginning balance for this year is \$3,012.25.

The Proposed Budget for 2011-2012 was presented. It was moved by Gwen Heck and seconded by Debbie Hamm that the proposed budget be accepted as presented. Motion passed by a vote of the general membership.

Thank you notes for contributions by the Nottingham Country Garden Club were received from: Katy Prairie Conservatory, Katy Christian Ministries' Pantry and Gwen Heck, past president for her gift.

Visitor Introductions:

We had 10 visitors.

Vice Presidents' Report:

Marilyn Frueh provided information on the up-coming program for this month and future program plans:

September: Elizabeth Barrow will speak on "Fabulous Fall" She is the owner of Papershell, a Garden Gallery located in Richmond. Raffle will include a Mosaic from Papershell. See the newsletter for details. Extra activity this month will be a visit to Papershell nursery .

October: will feature Brenda Beust Smith on "The Ten Commandments of Lazy Gardening". Raffle item of CD of Brenda's book. There will also be an extra activity on Making Herbal Vinegar, Oct. 19th. presented by Cynthia Meredith The only thing to bring is a mason jar and lid and any fresh herbs from your garden .

November: a field trip to Peckerwood Gardens with a cost of \$10 each. We will carpool to the gardens.

December: Meda Wogan speaks on "A Lone Star Christmas" and there will be a Pot Luck lunch at the MUD center . A tree will be provided for members to decorate with handmade ornaments similar to those that would have adorned trees in the early days of Texas settlement. An extra activity for this month might be the Sam Houston Park Candlelight Tour

January: Water conservation. Gwen Heck. Extra Activity: Make your own rain barrel with Gwen Heck. Because this activity will follow the meeting, members were invited to bring a lunch.

February: Field trip to Nelson's Water Gardens then to Katy Christian Ministries' garden. We will bring food donations to KCM at this time rather than in December as the need for them is greater. Extra activity: painted flower pots. Presented by Frankie Green.

March: Topic is Propagation by Marilyn Almon. An extra activity of field trip: Wild Flowers and Wine: will include a drive through area of wild flowers with tour of winery.

April: Jennie Dunnihoo will speak on "Cooking with Herbs". Extra activity will be a workshop with Mary Lou Proctor on "Companion Plants for the Patio or border."

May: A Brookwood Tour starting at 9:30 at Brookwood and lunch there at 11:30. Those wishing to stay and shop will arrange to do so.

Federation Report:

Next meeting of the Houston Federation of Garden Clubs is Friday, Sept 9, with a program on "Plant Today for an Abundant Tomorrow," by Pat Spiller. We need to encourage our membership to attend some of these meetings. Donna Luther, our representative to the Federation, always arranges car-pooling for these meetings.

Horticulture Presentation:

The following specimens were brought to today's meeting:

Yellow Bells or Esperanza, and Rose of Sharon – Madelyn Gardner

"Fireworks" and Abelia Plant – Jean Bays

Frenzy Plumeria and Blanket Flower – Alice Brown

Lavender, butterfly bush and basil – Margret Mason

Sunshine Report:

Ana Barrett sent out six cards over the summer

Publicity Report:

Pat Plesko announced the Houston paper had an article on GCNC in today's paper!

Newsletter Report:

Pat Chislett has posted the September newsletter on the NCGC web site. She also asked members to submit articles to for posting in the newsletter

Membership Report:

Mary Lou Proctor announced that there were around 55 people in attendance today, a great turn-out! Two new members bring us to a total of 41 paid members.

Requested everyone to fill out the current membership form and pay their \$25 membership dues at today's meeting. Membership is due each year at the May meeting for the next physical year which begins at the September meeting in the fall.

Historian Report:

Alice Brown has the club picture album on display for anyone to view.

Fundraising Report:

Janet Blowers announced her new co-chair, Lori Fay and they conducted the raffle and door prize drawings. The raffle prizes and door prize today were a plant, from Enchanted Gardens, won by Susie Griffin and a mosaic Toad house donated by our speaker and won by Pat Chislett and another plant won by Mary Rochelle

New Business

Susan Straub thanked the Hospitality committee for the beautiful table arrangements and board members who donated the "goodies" for today. Susan also announced a new co-chair for this committee was filled by Madelyn Gardner during the board meeting.

Meeting adjourned by President, Susan Straub, at 12:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted, with corrections
Gwen Heck, for Sandy Helsel, Secretary
Nottingham Country Garden Club