

# ILLINOIS DUNESLAND GARDEN CLUB MEETING

## January 10, 2012

### Zion Benton Library

The welcome was given by Co-President Sandi Shea, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. One guest was introduced.

Before the formal meeting began, members were given time to view and vote on the many beautiful photos entered in this year's "Just for Fun Photo Contest."

### **Business Meeting**

Members were reminded to review December's minutes of the meeting on our website. The treasurer's report was given by Kathy Knutell.

### **Committee Reports**

Scholarship Committee: Jan LaBelle reported that the committee met to review the selection process previously followed and to set guidelines for this year's selection. Our criteria would include: Identify a student interested in horticulture or a related field; select a local graduating student from Zion Benton High School; select a student in good standing interested in attending not only a 4-year school, but also a 2-year program at a junior college or a trade school; have announcements made to students that our scholarship is being offered for study in the horticultural field; and we would follow the high school's procedures used for selection for the community scholarship program.

Upcoming trips: April Meyers reported that she had several ideas for future trips.

- Quilt Gardens in Indiana: This would be an overnight trip
- Rockford Area: Included could be the Anderson Japanese Gardens and other area gardens
- Spring trip to the Chicago Botanic Gardens: Possibly late April or early May

Check e-mails for more information.

### **Old Business**

Winthrop Harbor School Garden Club: Jill LaBelle reported that she has been in contact with the club sponsor, Iris Stan, at North Prairie School and the sponsor is very excited about our possible involvement. The club will meet once a month after school. Some ideas offered through

our discussion were “Big Sister” volunteers, and “Grandma Gardeners,” or other forms of mentoring programs for our members to become involved. Jill will stay in contact with sponsor and will let us know what to do next in the process of becoming involved. A cute saying that was shared: “Watching things grow brings joy to young people and gardeners—that’s why there are no old gardeners; only older people gardening.”

Committee to audit treasurer’s books: This process will be done in March and members will include Cheri Florzyck, Barb Redman, and Dory Allred.

Nominating Committee: Elections for new officers will be held in March. Kathy Knutell, Treasurer and Doreen Matteson, Secretary, volunteered to roll over their current positions. The positions open for nominations from the committee will be for president, 1<sup>st</sup> vice president, and 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president. Volunteers to serve on the committee are Helen Koetz, Barb Clark, Sonja Bedrosian, and Darlene Robinson.

### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year Activities

Helpful Hints Booklet. Each member was asked to bring a written hint to our April meeting to be included in our new booklet. These hints can include gardening and yard hints, natural or “green hints, household, pets, and other hints. Hints may also be emailed to Sandi Shea.

Labor Day Parade Float and Theme. We already have a flatbed available for our float. Helen Koetz volunteered to head up the committee to plan the float. Other volunteers were Shirley Solberg, April Meyers, Cheri Florczyk, and Joyce Patterson. The theme for the parade will be chosen by the city’s committee but hopefully will be one that will honor our anniversary year. One new theme suggested was “75 years and still growing.”

Lanyard purchase. A suggestion was given for the club to purchase anniversary lanyards to be used for our nametags instead of the current clipped or pinned nametag. Shirley Solberg and Sandi Shea will look into the price and availability of purchasing the lanyards.

### **New Business**

Budburst Project: Cheri Florczyk shared some basic information about the Budburst Project. The idea is to compile growth patterns of different plants in our area. This data would then be entered on-line and compiled by the project. This project is through the Chicago

Botanic Gardens and the website for more information is:

[http://www.chicagobotanic.org/research/plant\\_conservation/budburst](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/research/plant_conservation/budburst)

More information will be shared with the club. Another idea was shared to get involved with the "Adopt a Highway" project. It was thought that a two year commitment was required and that cleanup would be done four times a year. Cheri would look into more information concerning this project.

December Christmas Luncheon and Workshop: The club determined that we will again reserve Shepherds Crook for our Christmas luncheon. The centerpiece workshop would again be a possibility.

Fall Centerpiece Workshop: Gale Dulien, who does the Christmas centerpiece workshop, has offered to do a fall centerpiece workshop in October or November.

2012 Garden Tour: This year's garden tour is scheduled for Saturday, July 14. Please mark your calendars now. Volunteers are needed to sit at each garden and items are needed as donations for the raffle.

May Plant Auction: Our annual plant auction is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8 at the Shiloh Center. Start thinking about plants you could bring; maybe pot some up early. Ideas were shared on how to attract the public. It was thought that buying newspaper ads that included photos might attract the attention of the readers. Marti Butler will look into the costs for such ads. Also it was suggested that all club members invite a nonmember friend to the auction.

Photo Contest Suggestions for Next January: Discussion centered on new or different categories for next year's photo contest. A new category could be "My Garden" which would include pictures exclusively of your own garden. Also included would be this year's categories: Close ups, landscapes, animals, and garden art. It was also discussed whether photos from previous years be included instead of limiting the entries to new ones from this past year only. Also mentioned was whether previous non-winning pictures could be resubmitted in the contest. There was talk of displaying "notable pictures," and it was suggested that could be done on a table at each meeting.

### **Other Items and Concerns**

The following workshop possibilities were shared, displayed, and discussed for interest:

- Heating Mat Workshop (\$7 plus your own 18 ft. rope lights)
- Glass Flower Garden Art
- Hummingbird Feeder

Garden Obelisk (wooden, \$50)  
Birdseed Feeder (embroidery hoop and screen)  
Urban Guerilla Seed Balls (March meeting)  
Bluebird Mealworm Feeder  
Container Potting (May)  
Concrete Leaf Art  
Bench Building Workshop

Reminders: Remember to check website frequently. New photos and links as well as the schedule are posted. For the password, contact an officer. Also check your e-mails as this is how we communicate about upcoming tours, workshops, and anything else we need to pass on.

New Yearbook Supplements: These one sheet inserts were again available for those that had not yet received one.

Acknowledgments: Thanks and acknowledgements were given to the January refreshment committee who featured decorations following a winter theme.

Photo Contest Results: The following winners were announced for this year's "Just for Fun Photo Contest."

#### Close Ups

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Beth Dermody and Doreen Matteson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Sandi Shea

#### Animals

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Kathy Knutell  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Judy Wilkes

#### Landscape

1<sup>st</sup> Place: April Meyers  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Judy Wilkes

#### Garden Art

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Beth Dermody  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: April Meyers and Sandi Shea

Respectfully Submitted

Doreen Matteson, Secretary

