

Garden Club of Ramsey County (GCRC) News Notes

Nov. 20, 2017

Agenda

6:30 Business Meeting

- Sunshine
- Hospitality
- Membership renewal
- Vice-president
- Vote on changes to Bylaws and Standing rules
- Audio-visual upgrade discussion

7:00 Refreshments

7:25 Guest speaker

Tonight's refreshments

courtesy of Joe Baltrukonis, Luann Muller, Ken Nordberg, Liz O'Toole, Lee Shannon, Sharon Van Epps. Thank you!

Tonight's program:

Designing for Holiday Tablescapes

Speaker Ashley Fox, who grew up gardening with her family in Chaska, studied both science and art in college. In 2008, after having two children and with eight years of experience as a freelance floral designer and five years as the family programs coordinator/educator at the Landscape Arboretum, she started Ashley Fox Designs out of her home.

Ashley is mindful of every step of the garden-to-event process in her approach to flower design. She specializes in the seasonal and organic approach to flower design so the arrangements are, by nature, one-of-a-kind. Many times, foraged stems are also utilized to bring the outdoors-in style to each event.

She is the winner of *Minnesota Bride Magazine's* 2015 Best of Floral award. Her current work portfolio can be seen on www.ashleyfoxdesigns.com, Instagram @ashleyfoxdesigns, and Facebook as Ashley Fox Designs.

Many thanks are in order!

As I complete my term as president of Garden Club of Ramsey County, I want to thank the many people who have given me support and assistance during the past two years and who have given generously of their time to make this club the outstanding organization it is today. I have been proud to have headed Minnesota's oldest continuously operating garden club. It has been a strong organization for so many years because of the willingness of members to get involved.

Thanks to board members who are completing their terms in December: Brenda Severson, secretary; Adina Overbee, co-treasurer; Janet Scott, director; Ken Nordberg, Past President; Yvonne Miller and Mary Parenteau, co-chairs of Education Programs.

And thanks to those who are stepping up for 2018: Karen Milton and Nancy Pascoe, co-presidents; Leslie Mercer, vice-president; Jodie Carlson, secretary; Renee Lane, co-treasurer; Evelyn Sunness, director; Cindy Syme and Barb Gibson, co-chairs of Education Programs.

And finally, thanks to those who are continuing on the board: Denise Joyce, director, and Karen Van Norman, plant sale chair.

Time to renew your membership; change in MSHS affiliate memberships

If you haven't already done so, please fill out your membership form and turn it in with a check to membership co-chairs Caren Fenske and Catherine Walls. Or, download the form from our website and mail it to club co-treasurer Kurt Klussendorf.

If you purchase a Minnesota State Horticultural Society (MSHS) membership along with your GCRC membership, please renew it as soon as possible so it can be processed submitted to MSHS by their

Dec. 1 deadline to ensure that your subscriptions to *Northern Gardner* continues without interruption. Also, please note that MSHS has changed its affiliate membership levels this year; the new levels and prices are included on our membership form.

Changes proposed in club bylaws and standing rules

Proposed changes in our club's bylaws and standing rules have been approved by the board and were presented to the general membership at the October meeting. They will be presented again during the November meeting, as required in the bylaws, and then be put to a vote. Copies of the proposed changes were emailed to all members and paper copies are available at the meeting for those who do not use email. If you have questions regarding proposed changes please contact Mary Olson, 612-597-1284 or marythereseolson555@gmail.com.

Possible audio-visual update - your opinions are important!

As discussed earlier in the year, the GCRC board is considering the possibility of working with the church to upgrade its audio-visual equipment. We expect to make a decision at our December board meeting on whether or not to invest in this. An online survey is now underway to gather feedback from our members. If you have not already done so, please complete the survey so we have the best possible information to use in making our decision.

A link to the online survey was emailed to you or you can type this short-cut link into your web browser: <http://bit.ly/GCRCsurvey> Paper copies of the survey have been mailed to members who do not use email.

Thanks from a scholarship recipient

I am proud that our members feel strongly about the importance of providing scholarships to college students studying horticulture-related fields. We received a thank you letter from Century College student Jared Poe, who received one of our four scholarships this year. He expressed his appreciation and shared that he has struggled with financial stability due to health concerns related to a disability. After completing his studies at Century College he is planning on transferring to the University of Minnesota in the spring to complete his studies. "I am eager and excited to share my horticultural knowledge with many diverse communities," wrote Jared.

Gardeners, thank you so much for continuing to support students like Jared!

Calendar

Dec. 4 - GCRC Board meeting, 7 p.m., home of Mary Olson, 555 Ashland Ave., St. Paul

Jan. 15 - GCRC meeting, *Growing Flowers and Woody Stems for Cutting*

Feb. 19 - GCRC meeting, *Gardening with the Wild World in Mind*

Garden Club of Ramsey County Board

President - Mary Olson

Vice-President - open position

Past President - Ken Nordberg

Secretary - Brenda Severson

Treasurers - Kurt Klussendorf, Adina Overbee

Directors - Janet Scott, Denise Joyce

Education Chairs - Mary Parenteau, Yvonne Miller

Plant Sale Chair - Karen Van Norman

