MGC Committee Reports

September 2018-August 2019

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Fundraising

2019 Plant Sale Summary

Submitted by Jane Harper

Event Date – Friday May 10th, noon-7pm, and Saturday May 11th, 9am-noon

Committee members: Cheryl Frey, Pat Vincent, Roberta Rundquist, Sue Mielke, Jane Harper, Mary Kiel

Event Summary: This event is held every year on the Friday and Saturday of Mother's Day weekend. The current provider of the annuals Costa Farm & Greenhouse. This is one of the major fundraisers for the Club. MGC sells annual hanging baskets, pots and bedding plants, and for the last few years, perennial divisions from members' gardens. This year we also had an abundance of 'garden art' donated by one of the senior Club members.

This event requires a lot of volunteers to do things like order the plants, provide perennials, unload the delivery truck, work the sale, place advertising fliers and signs, etc. Members are entitled to discounts: 10% discount for all members; 15% for members who do one task, and 25% discount and the opportunity to pre-order full flats of plants for members who help with two or more tasks. This year 43 members took advantage of the discounts at the public sale: 5 at 10%, 6 at 15% and 32 at 25%. ***Recommendation: Drop the 10% discount level and just provide a discount to members who work the sale.*** **Only 5 of the 43 member shoppers did not work the sale; their sales were $353.80 (14% of total sales).**

Jane Harper and Cheryl Frey co-chaired the committee this year. No committee meetings were held; Cheryl and Jane met a few times and involved others in decisions as needed. This seemed to work well because everyone was experienced at their role and needed little direction. Cheryl handled the greenhouse order (including the member pre-order); Roberta Rundquist handled volunteer recruiting & scheduling; Pat Vincent handled all aspects of the perennial sale; Sue Mielke handled publicity; and Jane Harper was the general overseer of the sale including site manager and money handler the days of the sale, and follow-up analysis and reporting after the event. Mary Kiel provided general advice and assistance as needed. ***Recommendation: Identify and train alternates for these five major committee responsibilities so that we have back up in the future. Confirm the committee leads and identify the alternates this fall.***

New this year was the use of the on-line Sign-Up Genius to manage the volunteers. This worked well. Because it was our first year using the tool and we got a late start using it we did not benefit from its full capabilities. ***Recommendation: Use Sign-up Genius right from the start of the process. Don't use sign-up sheets at the meetings. Instruct members to go to Sign-Up Genius to sign up for their volunteer opportunity. Make more use of the communication abilities of the tool. Refine job descriptions and include job descriptions for trainees.***

Results: The weather was good (cool, but sunny, dry and calm winds). Despite the late spring we had a good number and selection of perennials. All annuals sold (a small number were used for Triangle Park and City Hall Planters). 5 baskets were unsold and were given to Jane Pazlar for donating her 'garden art', Susan Warweg who was injured working the sale, Mary Kiel as thanks for her suburb leadership as Club president, and Jane Harper and Cheryl Frey as thanks for co-chairing the sale. Susan Warweg tripped over wood that was propping the door open and injured her wrist and back. ***Recommendation: 1. Use a door stop that doesn't present a tripping hazard. Inspect the sale site for all safety hazards. 2. Buy fewer hanging baskets.***

Costa's increased the prices it charged the Club but the Club did not increase its sale prices. This cut into this year's profit; the 'garden art' sales offset this loss. The sale generated $3,296.49 in profit ($1,326.99 in annuals, $1,656.50 in perennials, and $313 in garden art and miscellaneous). ***Recommendation: Raise prices next year by at least 10%.*** **Based on the number of sales this year, across-the-board increases in prices could generate the following increases in sales of annuals (these numbers do not account for the members' discounts): 5% could generate $310; 8% could generate $495; and 10% could generate $619.**

Financial Summary:

Total Revenue:
- Cash: $11,024.70
- Gift Cards: $166
- Total: $11,190.70

Total Expenses:
- Costa Payments: $7,595.06
- Printing & Miscellaneous: $133.15
- Gift Cards: $166
- Total: $7,894.21

Profit: $3,296.49

*5 hanging baskets were unsold, all other annuals sold at full price
*Gift cards included 2 free baskets, and 3 gift certificates from the Outreach event. $7 of one certificate was unused.

Member Sales: Member sales were divided $3,029 (55%) for presales and $2,453.20 (45%) at the public sale. 22 members took advantage of the presale. The Club doesn't make much money on the presales because the mark up is very low. We consider this a 'perk' for members who work the sale. ***No changes recommended for next year.***

Perennial Sales: The $1656.50 in perennial sales accounted for 50% of the profits. 213 of the 281 (75%) of the perennials were donated by 2 members. 126 or nearly 50% of the donations were from Jane Pazlar who has moved and will not be able to donate next year. We need to get donations from more people. ***Recommendation: 1. Send an email in late summer encouraging people to locate and/or pot plants for next year's sale. 2. Identify a crew that is willing to dig and pot at members' homes who are unable to do this work. 3. Collect pots to have available for donations.***

Garden Art: About 10% of the profits were attributed to the donated garden art. ***Recommendation: Consider the pros and cons and decide if we want to include garden art next year.***

Prior Year Profits:

2018: $2,927
2017: $4,052
2016: $3,216
2015: $2,269
2014: $2,386

2019 Garden Tour Fundraiser Summary

Submitted by Mary Kiel

Event Date – Sunday June 23rd, noon-4pm

Committee members: Mary Kiel, Heather Griggs, Jackie Metelak, Kay Martin, Karen Edell-Reeves, Laura Krueger, Renee Lemieux and Beth Holsen

Event Summary

This was the 11th Garden Tour Fundraiser for MGC (2007, 2009, then annually beginning in 2011). Guests purchase a tour ticket/map/brochure from MGC and then drive themselves to visit the gardens. MGC has 2 greeters at each site, as well as Master Gardeners onsite to answer questions, and in some cases, to provide special information tables.

This event requires a lot of volunteers to work as greeters, poster hangers, ticket sellers, sign posters, etc. Our club embraces the effort and we are happy to report that we easily staff it fully. We reward our volunteers with a special sneak-preview tour of the gardens a couple days before the official tour, and also treat them to a post-tour party immediately following the event.

We had one large group join us this year – a bus group from the Eagan School District. MGC coordinated a special routing and recommended timing and rest breaks for the bus group.

Results: We had relatively low ticket sales of 160 and net profit of just under $1600. We attribute the lower ticket sales to a combination of things including area road construction, Farmers Market location and timing change (one of our ticket sales outlets), and weather

What went well?

- Lovely gardens
- Willing volunteers
- An experienced, hard-working committee
- Pre-tour and post-party at WBCA
- New ticket outlet (Ox & Crow Coffeehouse)

Changes for future?

- Heather Griggs is retiring from this committee after serving since 2009. We either need to recruit someone else to help visit gardens and write the descriptions, or else switch to asking homeowners to write their own description.
- Still would like to delegate ticket creation/printing to someone other than Mary
- Renee Lemieux will take over party planning/prep
- Not a problem, but the committee recognizes the need to train replacement for key positions.

Meetings & Education

2018/2019 Speaker Summary

Submitted by Jackie Metelak

Event:

1. Sept.12, 2018: Field trip to Camrose Hill Farm for tour and floral demonstration with owner, Cindie Sinclair. Fee $150. Many carpooled from DEC. Very positive response from participants.
2. Oct. 3, 2018: Management of Native Woodlands for Health, Habitat & Sustainability, with Kathy Widin. Fee $100 honorarium to Wild Ones, St. Croix Savanna Chapter in Stillwater. Presentation was all-encompassing, including pests, diseases, injuries, invasive species, etc. that impact our trees and woodlands. Participants found her to be informative and interesting with a nice presentation style.
3. Nov. 12, 2018: Vickie Pondelle of Bailey Nurseries on Simplifying the Garden with Low-maintenance Shrubs. Fee $100. Good response from participants.
4. Dec. 3, 2018: Diane Lee on Wreath-making. Fee $175 from 9-noon, plus materials fee paid by individual as per order. We have had Diane join us for several years and she provides 2-3 new design choices each year and provides all necessary materials. Twenty-nine participants made a total of 38 wreaths. (Twenty-five a.m. and four for evening shift.) Three volunteers assisted with evening shift as Diane Lee only works the morning shift. Two participants were members and two were guests. The participants always seem enthused and many bring treats to share.
   It is recommended that the evening wreath-making shift be dropped in the future.
5. Jan. 8, 2019: Lynn Steiner on Grow Native! Fee $100 and sold books. Very popular speaker. Moving from the area in the near future.
6. OUTREACH Feb. 13, 2019: Debbie Lonnee. Fee: $200. She presented on new plants that work in northern gardens, from woody trees and shrubs, to perennials and annuals, and on what breeders from around the world have developed that we can add to our gardens. Always rave reviews. Debbie is a natural and engaging speaker. Lots of great photos.
7. March 5, 2019: Jim Calkins, U of M Horticulture Science with extensive teaching and research experience. He spoke to our group on Understanding and Managing Your Soil: The Foundation of Successful Landscapes and Gardens. Fee $150 plus mileage ($33.79). Some participants had soil samples done prior to meeting for his review and recommendations. Well received.
8. April 9, 2019: Romi Slowiak on Chinese Garden Elements/Principles. Fee $100.She has a Chinese garden and she has been involved as a board member of the St Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden project at Lake Phalen. A past urban planner and current “community arts activist.” Wonderful speaker and wildly well received. She invited our garden club to visit her gardens and the Chinese Garden at Lake Phalen.

Committee members: Dianne Timmer, Pam Brown, and Jackie Metelak

Changes for Next Year?

- Expand planning committee as Pam B. resigned from committee
- Explore members wo are interested in the IT set-up at each of the meetings
- Discontinue December evening shift of wreath-making

2019 February Outreach Summary

Submitted by Kay Martin

Event Date – Wed. Feb, 13th 6:00 - 8:30 at Mahtomedi District Ed Center
Committee members: Kay Martin with assistance from Sue Mielke and Dianne Timmer. Sue handled Publicity and Posters. Diane handled the Auction.

Debbie Lonnee was the featured speaker this year. The topic was New Plants for Northern Gardeners. Annuals, Perennials and Woody Plants for Zone 4. Sue handled the publicity and poster hanging. Jackie Metelak arranged for the speaker. Mary created an online registration form to reduce phone call registrations. The new registration method let Kay know automatically that someone had registered. Members contributed by bringing snacks and helping with set-up and clean-up. There were over 30 people involved in some way to put this event on.

The February Outreach starts with a social time to visit members and visitors, visit displays, photos, auction items and door prizes at 6:00. A short welcome and introduction to the MGC from the President at 6:45. The speaker usually starts at 7:00 until about 7:45 - 8:00. Followed by auction and raffle. Clean up follows. We are out of the building by 8:45.

I have always felt that this event is the highlight of winter in Minnesota for gardeners (or at least for gardeners spending winter in Minnesota!). Everyone seems to enjoy and appreciate this event. We had 86 attendees (40 MGC members, 46 non), and 4 new people joined the club that night (2 couples).

We sold 23 raffle tickets, resulting in $115 profit, the Silent Auction brought in $193 in profit, so a total profit of $308 from those two sources.

Comments received from attendees:

- I really enjoyed the speaker!
- Thanks, it was a great event! Debbie was incredibly knowledgeable. I'm looking forward to popping something new in my garden and she gave us some wonderful options.
- I can almost smell the fragrance from the plants you will Google! Fun- I think registration should have been first in the hallway, to get that out of the way which distracted people from the displays along the hallway, good to have the food at the far end. Was a very good evening. Now that I know what it was like I think I could have brought a door prize or two.
- The OUTREACH was so well done. The hall, auction area and food was a great use of the space, narrow but nice.
- The program was just the best. Debbie L. is a great speaker and the selections discussed almost had me at Gerten's the next day...no I did not go.
- The set up in that room was good. Unfortunately, Kay had to scramble for more chairs but heck, it was a good crowd.

Every year we learn something new. This year we thought there were too many door prizes. We also forgot to assign someone to plan and handle the scavenger hunt. It has always been a fun part off the evening for guests. We had one raffle item, a Pagoda, which was a hit. But the best part of the evening was the chance to talk gardening, make new acquaintances and dream about the coming gardening season.

2019 Inspired by Nature Event Summary

Submitted by Mary Kiel, Sue Kowalski and Bonnie Frain

Event Date: Saturday August 3rd, 2019 1pm – 5pm at White Bear Center for the Arts

Committee Members: The event was coordinated by MGC members Sue Kowalski, Bonnie Frain and Mary Kiel, and Danielle Cezanne, Program Coordinator for the WBCA.

Event Summary:

Inspired by Nature was co-sponsored by the Mahtomedi Garden Club and the White Bear Center for the Arts. It was first held as a special anniversary event in 2018 and was enjoyed so much that both groups decided to try it again in 2019.

MGC arranged for Rhonda Fleming Hayes, a nationally recognized speaker, to present a program on pollinators. The Lake County Pastel Society was currently being featured in the Ford Family Gallery and their representative, Cynthia Kath, spoke about their group and about pastel art in general. Sue Kowalski showed the guests how to make Bee Bombs and it was well received.

One of the highlights of the event again this year was a floral art interpretation contest. Members of the garden club as well as the community were invited to create a floral arrangement depicting one of the pieces of art on display, using pollinator plants as part of the arrangements. We held a design workshop on Thursday July 25th to discuss the project with potential participants. Sue Kowalski chaired the workshop. A total of 8 people eventually signed up as floral artists. Floral artists were asked to submit an artist statement which was printed and displayed on a pedestal along with their arrangement.

An advertising poster was created and printed by MGC, and then distributed to about 80 locations throughout the community by MGC club members (Sue Mielke, Bonnie Frain, Janet Kortuem, and Gayle Huseth). MGC also advertised the event on its website and Facebook page, as well as submitting a press release and calendar notices to the White Bear Press.

Guests were given a ballot and asked to vote for their favorite arrangement. Karen Davis won the people's choice popular vote and was awarded a $100 gift certificate to the 2020 MGC plant sale. Artis Salemo won the Artist's choice award and was awarded a $100 gift certificate for a class at WBCA. 90 guests attended the event this year.

Budget: MGC spent about $450 on the event for speaker fee, printing costs and prizes.

What went well: The event was well received by the public, the floral artists did an amazing job, the speakers were great, and those who helped make it happen seemed to enjoy.

What could have gone better: We would have liked more participants in the interpretation of the art, but those that did, did an excellent job. Very impressive displays. Need to think creatively about how to get more floral artists to participate - perhaps record some interviews with this year's entrants. Need to transition Mary Kiel off this committee if it is to happen again in the future.

2019 Hospitality Summary

Submitted by Mary Kiel on behalf of Gayle Huseth

Event Date – every meeting/event

Committee members: Gayle Huseth, Roberta Rundquist, Karen Milton

Summary

We recently created this committee so that we'd have greeters present at our meetings. They welcome and check people in, have nametags available, and manage handouts. This has been well-received by our members and we should continue to explore how to best utilize the resources of this committee.

NOTE: for the 2019/2020 fiscal year we will stop asking members to take turns bringing treats and instead create a budget category and ask the hospitality committee to manage the treats.

Suggestions for next year:

- Might need to recruit another member or two from the pool of people who typically attend meetings to help.

Community Beautification

2019 Community Beautification Grants Summary

Submitted by Jeanne Zlonis

Event Date: April- October 2019

Committee members: Jeanne Zlonis and Renee Lemieux, Co-chairs. Committee members Wally Lauria, Rose Urbiha and Sandy Wilkinson

2019 Community Beautification Grants

1. **River Valley Girl Scout Troop #55278**- Requested $250 to buy perennials for boulevard plantings at the completion of the new highway 12 reconstruction in Mahtomedi/Willernie. The troop will undertake this community project to complete a "Silver Award" in the area of sustainability. After completion, the city of Mahtomedi has agreed to provide ongoing maintenance of the plantings.

   Recommend full funding of $250. The committee suggested focusing on planting the area in front of City Hall where maintenance could more easily happen. If hosta are used, perhaps plants from in front of the library could be re-used when library re-construction begins.

   August Update- None available

2. **White Bear Lake Area Historical Society**- Requests $500- $1000 for a landscape project at the site of the historic Cass Gilbert designed White Bear Town Hall which has recently been moved to Polar Lakes Park. MGC funding would supplement fundraising by WBLAHS and enable the project to go ahead this summer. On-going maintenance will be provided by Township Public Works.

   Recommend donating $1000 to this project. We felt this was an excellent project and our participation cements a relationship with the historical society who are helping with archiving garden club historical documents.

   August Update- We are making progress-signage and a few minor construction items have had to be addressed before planting begins. We intend to have things installed - signs and plants by the end of August in time for Township Day on September 14th.

3. **White Bear Center for the Arts**- Requests $500 to continue their site improvement focusing on the area around the labyrinth. Plantings will include drought tolerant native plants diagramed in the application. On-going maintenance will be handled by WBCA staff and community volunteers.

   Recommend full funding of $500. The WBCA are wonderful to work with and always complete projects as planned with excellent documentation.

   August Update- Labyrinth project, this has been so frustrating!!! The area was not suitable for planting until late June and we needed to pull lots of cement out of the area. The soil sample we did last year was obviously not correct, so we amended it the best we could and planted some grasses. Dave and I will be planting more this weekend and adding some mulch to complete the project. Thank you for your patience.

Summary- In 2019 the club budgeted $2500 for Community Beautification Grants. We only received requests for $1750. Usually we receive requests for more than we have in the budget.

2019 City Hall Pots Summary

Submitted by Mary Kiel

Event Date – once per season change (Summer/Fall/Winter)

Committee members: Not sure if we have an "official" committee, but Dianne Timmer has been planting these pots at season change.

Summary

Arrangements are changed three times per year (Summer/Fall/Winter), with occasional refreshing needed. The club has a budget of $125 to cover the year. It is customary for some of the plant sale leftovers to be used in these pots for the summer arrangement, and the fall/winter arrangements often include natural elements gathered from member's yards.

Suggestions for next year:

- Form an actual committee of 2 or 3 people to handle this on an ongoing basis.

2019 Veterans Memorial (Triangle) Park Summary

Submitted by Mary Kiel

Event Date – no specific date

Committee members: no official committee still this year as the park area has been under construction.

Event Summary

The new planting bed is in a much more visible location and can be seen by passers-by on Mahtomedi Ave. We love it. Mary Kiel, Jeanne Zlonis, Dianne Timmer, and Sue Mielke helped to plan the bed on June 6th. We used some leftover un-sold plants from the plant sale and had to make an additional trip to Costa Farm & Greenhouse for more plant material.

What went well?

- Visibility of the new planting bed
- Wonderful last-minute volunteer helpers and great plant material

Suggestions for next year:

- Need someone to plan the design for the bed in advance, organize plants, and recruit volunteers to help plant as well as periodically maintain

Special Summer Events

2019 Summer No-Fuss Tours Summary

Submitted by Kay Martin

Event Date: 1 date in July, 3 dates in August

Committee Members: Kay Martin

Event Summary: We visited 3 gardens on a July evening, and then 6 more on three separate nights in August. 7 were member gardens, 2 were non-member. Each was unique in its own way and we enjoyed all of them. There are never two the same and everyone leaves inspired in some way. It was so fun to visit member gardens to see what they have been working on and get a chance to know them a little better.

Thank you to all of you who shared your beautiful gardens with us. What a great event to have on a beautiful late summer evening with fellow gardeners!

2019 Summer Bus Tour Summary

No Bus Tour was coordinated for 2019

Member Relations

2018/2019 Membership Committee Summary

Submitted by Gayle Huseth

Committee members: Gayle Huseth, Jean Melancon (transitioned off), Jane Pazlar (transitioned off)

Recap of last year's activities-ongoing

- Jean Melancon and Jane Pazlar have transitioned off day-to-day functions of this committee, but will continue to help with member handbook revamp and other special projects as needed. Thank you Jean and Jane!
- An Excel based eDirectory was created to replace the MS Word based membership directory. The first year of membership renewals and processing new membership forms was completed using this format.
    1. eDirectory contains all the information from the membership directory
    2. eDirectory has storage for member gardening interest, any special skills that might be helpful to the MGC, and their willingness to assist others with gardening and mentor new members
- Researched membership dues at local, statewide and Wisconsin Garden Clubs.
    1. Propose that MGC change their dues to be more in line with other garden clubs. Details from research were included in a separate document to the MGC Board of Directors along with a proposal to modify the Membership form along with recommendations about a web site and an assistant position.

Plans for next year

- Help with researching, testing and implementing use of new internet-based membership management tool
- Finalize the process for making eDirectory available to all members
- Determine tasks and resources for Membership Committee going forward.

2019 Nominating Committee Summary

Submitted by Wally Lauria

Committee Members: Wally Lauria

Committee Activity

Per the bylaws, the Nominating Committee is active in October to nominate candidates for Executive Officer positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) for the coming year. This is accomplished prior to the election in November, on a yearly basis (per length of the terms). The function of this committee is to notify all members of the open Executive Officer positions, and communicate by email and phone calls, the roles and functions of those positions. The members interested in a position, are asked to respond to the email. If necessary, phone calls are made to generate an interest in being a candidate.

Changes for next year

It has been very difficult to generate an interest among the membership in accepting a nomination for an executive office. So far, we have kept those positions filled because current officers have agreed to fill the positions beyond a year (sometimes many years). Discussions on how to generate interest among members in the executive offices should be primary for a newly organized Nominating Committee.

I have been committed to performing the function of the Nominating Committee, as a committee of one, for a number of years. As of January 2019, I am willing to be a member of a Nominating Committee but will no longer be available to chair the committee or perform the functions alone.

2019 Archives Committee Summary

Submitted by Wally Lauria

Committee Members: Wally Lauria (Chair), Cheryl Frey, Kay Martin, Nancy Saathoff, Rose Urbiha

Committee Activity:
The archival material has been stored by Wally Lauria since about 2005. The only activity until 2018 was to compile "Early History" based on old meeting minutes, and now found in the Member Handbook.

Currently, part of the role of maintaining the archival material is to provide copies, access and assistance when requested. Members have used copies of the material for displays at Outreach.

A working Archives Committee began meeting in late 2018.

The following was accomplished during late 2018 and 2019:
The committee determined, after discussion, to use White Bear Area Historical Society as the resource for archiving our material.

The original charter was copied, and is now archived at the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society. Kay Martin maintains the charter copy, and provides it for display. (Kay Martin and Cheryl Frey copied the original.)

The committee met with Sara Hanson, Executive Director of the White Bear Area Historical Society on January 24, 2019. (Cheryl Frey arranged the meeting). Sara gave us a tour of the storage facility at City Hall, and informed us of the organizational aspects of archiving. We submitted the original charter to be archived, and discussed how to proceed with the other material the club has.

We scanned the 1943 Minutes of Meetings, including the organizational meeting on June 2, 1943, and submitted them to be added to the MGC website.

Next Year
The goal for 2020 is to continue scanning the historic material so it is easily available in digital form. The original material will be archived at the White Bear Area Historical Society after the activity is completed.

2019 Communications/Technology Committee

Submitted by Mary Kiel

Committee Activity

We do not currently have an official committee here. We need to formalize and recruit more help. Current functions are handled by:

- Web Site (Mary Kiel)
- Facebook (Mary Kiel and Cheryl Frey)
- Publicity (Beth Holsen designer, Sue Mielke coordinator)
- SignupGenius, MailChimp, SurveyMonkey, etc (Mary Kiel)

Mary Kiel and Jean Melancon have met to discuss this topic and started working on a document defining our needs. Worth noting was that this year we created an entirely new website which should offer us new features as well as improved ease of use as we move forward.

A new website was created rather quickly in June of 2019 using the GoDaddy GoCentral web development tool. This may not be the final solution, but the platform is significantly easier to work with than our previous hosting tool. The new website comes with a "members only" page and some email tools that address some of our immediate needs, although not as elegantly as hoped for.

Youth Gardening

2019 Sunflower Contest Summary

Submitted by Mary Kiel

This event was discontinued after the 2018 contest due to lack of participation by children and difficulty in recruiting help from club members.

2019 Wildwood PTO Funfair Summary

Submitted by Mary Kiel

This event was discontinued after 2018 due to difficulty in recruiting someone to coordinate the event

2019 Fairy Garden Program Summary

Submitted by Sue Kowalski

Event Date – July 12th, 1-3 and July 19th, 1-3

Committee members: Sue Kowalski (lead) assisted by volunteers Lisa Monzel, Karen Milton, Pat Vincent, Gayle Huseth, Mary Kiel

Event Summary: Fairy Gardening Class at White Bear Center for the Arts for Children ages 8-12. Children create their own unique Fairy Garden with furniture, accessories, fairies or elves. This program was held at the Wildwood Library in the past at no charge to the participants. Because the library was going to be closed for reconstruction this summer, the event was moved to the White Bear Center for the Arts for 2019. MGC sponsored some of the materials cost, but the children were also asked to pay a registration fee this year – part of which was retained by WBCA to cover their operating costs, and part of which was a materials fee to partially reimburse MGC for materials purchased.

We create several examples of everything that we teach the children to make during the two-part series. We instruct, demonstrate and help the children to make a custom fairy or elf with clothing & accessories, bridge and river, natural plant material house or teepee, swing, chairs, tables, arbor and fence or backdrop. We supply all of the materials including the planter, soil, succulents and plants, various color moss, birch bark, birch sticks, fairy lights and assorted pebbles.

Instruction and demonstration of the following topics:

- Soil and drainage
- Plant propagation - growing new plants
- Construction of house, furniture and fixtures
- Watering schedule and sunlight requirements
- Landscaping design and perspective
- Fairy Garden housekeeping and maintenance

What works:

- I believe that the models, demonstrations and systematic individual assistance by our volunteers is the best recipe for success assuring that the children leave the class with a Fairy Garden that they are very proud to have created and display in their home.
- We had 4 volunteers this year (6 counting Lisa and I).
- I prepare a Plant Identification sheet with watering, sunlight and care instructions for the children and parents and they leave class with plant knowledge and confidence to care for their creation.
- The children are delightful and so excited and engaged the entire length of the two- part class series. It is a true pleasure to prepare and execute the classes and the outcome is very rewarding.
- A fairy garden was created and left with the WBCA to be on display for the rest of the summer after the class. We hope this will help spark interest and advertise the class for next year.

What I would like to change for next year:

- Work with WBCA to promote this class. Only 7 children signed up, some of them at the last minute, which made planning and organizing materials inefficient and costly

Special Projects

2018/2019 75th Anniversary Memorial Committee Summary

Submitted by Jackie Metelak, August 10, 2019

Committee Members: Wally Lauria, Rose Urbiha, Nancy Saathoff, and Jackie Metelak

Summary: This is year two of the group meeting to plan ways to recognize the Mahtomedi Garden Club's 75th Anniversary. Many creative ideas and plans have evolved during that time, but due to costs we have had to scale back and eliminate the landscaped garden plan and sculpture. Currently, the plan is to purchase a stone bench with engraving, plant climbing vines on the two large arbors in Veterans Memorial Park, and contribute $2,500 to the City of Mahtomedi toward the purchase of a decorative street light once Washington County approved recognition plaques on donations of $2,500 or more.

Decorative Street Light: A check in the amount of $2,500 was made out by the MGC to the City of Mahtomedi for the street light on 4/12/19. (Cleared the bank 4/16/19.)

Stone Bench: A meeting was held at Hedbergs in Stillwater to view the bench options. A wider display of benches is on display in Plymouth which we may pursue. Custom benches are an option at Plymouth site. A trip to Natural Landscape Minnesota in Inver Grove Heights is planned for this month. We anticipate the cost of the bench, delivery and engraving to come to around $1,000. We would like the bench to be placed near the current MGC raised garden bed that surrounds the City sign. The final plan will need approval by the City.

Climibing Vines on Arbors: The committee selected Lonicera sempervirens 'Major Wheeler.' It's a zone 4 plant with fragrant red-orange flowers late spring/summer. It's a wonderful pollinator and wildlife plant. It likes filtered sun or a.m. sun and p.m. shade. We would plant a native groundcover to help shade the roots. We are awaiting final approval by the City.

The ultimate goal is to complete the plan in the near future and disband the committee. There is a major street project occurring this summer in downtown Mahtomedi which may interfere with timing of the installation of the bench and vines once we receive final approval from the City.

The current balance in the account is $2,340.