

## May 2023

A sunny morning greeted garden club friends for the last meeting of the fiscal year 22/23. Outside many plants accumulated for the plant exchange. Folks gathered to find out more about the species and their growing requirements.



Our new member, **Susan Hull**, is quiet the botanical expert as she explained plant details to **Barbara** and **Sherry**.

At the registration table **Harolene**, **Susan Busler** and **Adrienne** are prepared to wrapp up final business for the year.



**MaryEtta** recruited her friend to the club, introduced her to members and explained the registration process to her.



In Harriette's absence, **Barbara Crum** led the meeting on this day. She discussed last minute preparations with **Carol Calvert**.

**Marilyn** provided spring flowers from her garden in an artfully arranged bouquet.



## Hospitality



Refreshments were provided by **Susan Hanson, Barbara Durr, Marilyn Bullen** and also, but not in the picture, by Bette Gerhold and Maggie White. The stunning centerpiece was created by Marilyn.

Members spent time socializing, drinking fresh coffee and enjoying the delicious buffet items. The Lilly below grew in a member's garden.



**Meditation** (recited by Mary Davis)

*Loving God, Creator of all times and places,  
we thank you for the gift of summertime, days of light, warmth and leisure.*

*Thank you for the beauty that surrounds us everywhere we look;  
the multi-colored flowers, the deep blue of the sky, the tranquil surface of lakes, the  
laughter of children at play, people strolling in parks.*

*As we open our eyes and ears to the landscape of nature and people,  
open our hearts to receive all as gift.*

*Give us that insight to see you as the Divine Artist.  
Help us appreciate that you are laboring to keep all in existence.  
Warm our souls with the awareness of your presence.*

*We thank you this Mother's Day for the gifts of our mothers, grandmothers who have  
nurtured us on our journey of life.*

*It is through their examples that they have shaped us into the person we are today.*

*We are thankful this Memorial Day for all those who have served in the military  
and have lost their lives in the service of our country.*

*We honor and reflect on their great sacrifice as we  
enjoy the start of summer with our families  
and share in the freedoms of the country that we live in.*

*As we close this season of our garden club, we thank you God for the many wonderful  
experiences and lessons You have taught us as we gather to share programs and  
adventures in Your garden of life.*

*Be with each of us this summer as we enjoy this beautiful earth.  
Keep us safe from injury and harm and bring us back refresh and renewed in spirit  
ready to take on whatever You have prepared for us in the fall.*

*We ask all of this in Your precious name*

*Amen*

## Program

One organization benefitting from our donations this year was the **Cy-creek Greenway Project**. This project is managed by a committee within the Cypress Creek Flood Control Coalition. **Mr. Robertson**, a long-time resident of Lakewood Forest, is the committee chair and came to visit with us today.

As he explained, the plan of his committee is to connect more than a dozen parks along the 52-mile Cypress Creek watershed. He is working to gain support for the project from area legislators and community leaders, the county, homeowner's associations, MUD boards and developers.

He brought poster boards to explain the layout of the proposed improvements to the areas along the Cypress Creek and its tributaries.

Cypress Creek flows from Waller county through Harris county and empties into the Gulf of Mexico in Galveston county. Mr. Robertson negotiates with many agencies to help preserve the natural areas that have strong recreational value and an important historic past.

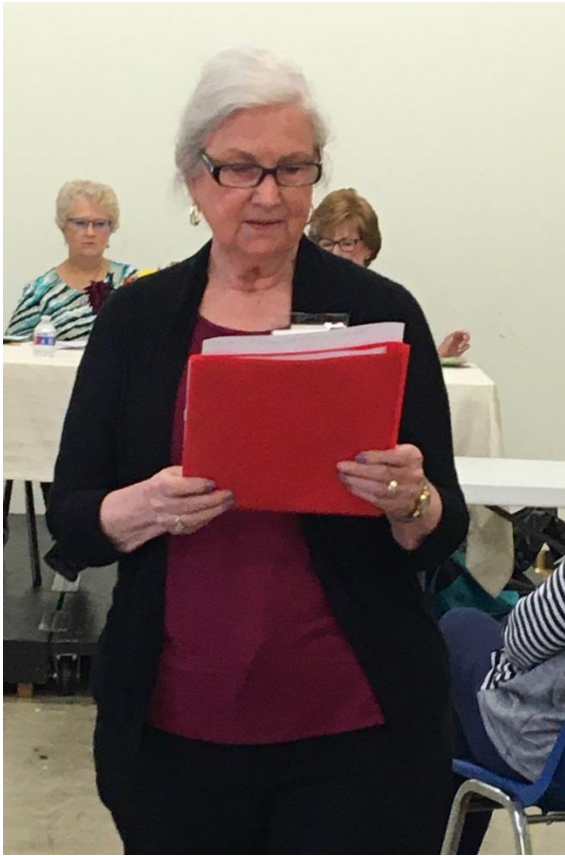


Area history showed that native Americans once lived along the creek's habitat. Sam Houston and his troops camped next to the creek along what is now the Hewlett-Packard campus near State Hwy 249 and Louetta Road.

Mr. Robertson passionately advocates to preserve the woodlands along and around the creek and protect the land from being developed for commercial and residential use. He credits retiring State Sen. Jon Lindsay (R-7) as being instrumental in the

purchase of several tracts of land that the Greenway Project hopes to encompass in the current projects.

**"There are a lot of good things moving in the right direction here," Mr. Robertson said. "I think this will have an impact on our quality of life, our home values, desirability of our area ... it will be good for our community."**



The meeting continued with **Jean Robinson** updating us about correspondents she received for the club and letters with checks she sent out to recipients of the club's donations.

Jean also reminded us that the Lilli of the valley is the May flower of the month.



**Terri Cole** reported proudly on a volunteer day at the Brookwood Community. Several ladies of the Garden Club skillfully assisted with their 'Lunch and Learn' Program. Dressed in black pants and white blouses, and donning their LF aprons, they made an incredible impression at the Brookwood Café.





**Rica** still had a few aprons to sell and they went fast as this item, with its deep pockets, turns out to be very useful and not only for gardening.

The program continued with **Becky Bailey** showing us how to use discarded items as “Yard Art” or innovative flower containers. All it takes is imagination and a can of spray paint to turn refuse into a stunning garden display.



We also learned that Becky is a skilled ‘dumpster diver’, finding useful items at the end of her neighbors’ driveways on trash day.

## Installation of Officers – 2023/2024



**Carolyn Calvert** installed the officers for the LF Garden Club year 2023/2024. Carolyn thanked the president, her current executive board and the standing committee members for guiding the club through the past year. As it is time now to pass the ‘tools’ on to a new group, each officer received a colored trowel, a seed package and a pair of garden gloves. With that, Carolyn cleverly related each position to the colors of the tools and gardening activities.

The club will depend on **Jean Robinson**, the corresponding secretary, to handle all correspondence promptly and professionally. She will keep the club informed about members birthdays and illnesses. Her job is associated with a cheery personality, balance, hope and encouragement. Her seed package of bright wildflowers symbolizes these qualities.



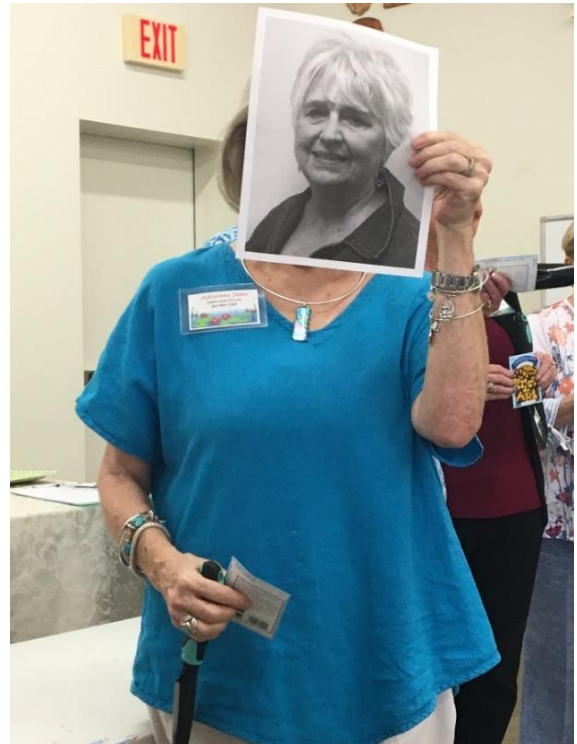
As the trusted custodian of the club’s finances, **Susan Busler**, the treasurer, has the duty of preparing the budget, and collecting and disbursing monies related to the operation of the club. Susan received a green trowel signifies the color of healthy plants and of money. She is tasked to ‘grow’ our finances free of ‘weeds’ for the continued health and survival of the club.





**Barbara Crum**, the 1<sup>st</sup> VP is entrusted with the important duty to support the president. As the chairman for programs, she will arrange for interesting speakers to keep the membership informed and enthusiastic about gardening. Barbara received a red trowel as the color symbolizes passion and excitement. With the spade she will dig a good foundation for the club to built on and seeds to plant happiness.

**Candace Beaver**, elected VP of membership was unable to attend the meeting. In her place **Adrienne Juno** stepped in to represent her. Candace will keep an accurate account of the membership roster and keep track of the name tags. Her trowel is blue as the color represents friendship and cooperation. These qualities are needed as it requires takt and diplomacy to work with so many ladies.



**Harriette Bedenbaugh**, elected as our president for another year, was absent as well but was represented by **Harolene Hatley** who also 'wore' Harriette's picture. The president's honor and duty are to represent the club with loyalty and integrity. As the head gardener, she will foster harmony and unity within the club. Harriett received a purple trowel as this color embodies royalty and high rank. It also denotes the trust and confidence the club members have conferred on her. We will count on her for strong leadership, encouragement and sound judgment.



**Sheila Anderson** will be by Harriette's side again as the re-elected recording secretary. She will faithfully record and keep files of the minutes for all club meetings. The club's history has been entrusted to her. This job requires a sharp wit and sharp pencils. Her trowel is white as the color represents the whiteness of the pages she will write on. White is also the color associated with honor and trustworthiness because the club trusts Sheila to keep our records.



**The executive Board of the LF Garden Club year 2023-2024**

The last item on the agenda was to present the Garden Angel to **Margo Probst**. She was nominated for the award because of her engagement in the community and her mentoring of new and established members of the club.

Margo at the time was recovering at home from injuries due to a stumble and was not present to receive her garden angel but it will be delivered to her promptly.



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*MAY*

*"When April steps aside for May,  
Like diamonds all the rain-drops glisten;  
Fresh violets open every day  
And to a new bird each morning we listen".*

