

September 2023

This, the first day of September the ladies of the Lakewood Forest (LF) Garden club gathered again at the Scout House to start a new garden club year. The extremely hot summer was the main topic of discussion. Gardeners shared their observations; which specimens of plants are still alive, barely surviving or doing well on limited water supply. And, unfortunately, which plants will be compost next year.

The usually large and wide-ranging display of green cuttings and flowers brought to the meeting by fellow gardeners was sadly lacking.

In spite of it all, members were happy to meet with their friends again and extended warm welcomes to guests and new members.



Pam Randall worked the registration table and handed each member updated pages to the directory she had created over the summer.





President **Harriette Bedenbaugh** arrived pulling a wagon full of important presidential items behind her.

Sheila Anderson, Carolyn Calvert and Gloria Cox, long time garden club members, are happily posing for a picture.



Debbie Jones, a new member, and **Marlo Wilson** are probably discussing the many benefits of belonging to the LF garden club.





Donna Stephens and **MaryEtta Wood** have taken on new volunteer positions in the club. **Adrienne Juno** is working the registration table for Candace today.



Eleese is welcoming **Susan Hull** to her new position as Horticulture committee chair. As a new member, Sue has already shared much of her knowledge with the members and we are glad she stepped up to fill this important role.



Terri Cole, no longer our liaison for Brookwood, is still active in the club and **Harriett** is probably convincing her to volunteer for something else.



Garden club members and chaplain **Mary Davis** with **Marlo Wilson**.

Hospitality

Traditionally, the first meeting of the garden club year is hosted by the board and committee members. Unfortunately, Harolene did not make it into the picture (see little white spot of her jacket next to Sue Busler).



The flower arrangement decorating the buffet table was created by **Fran Hamel** with flowers from her garden. How does she keep them all alive?

The cute bear wearing a 'September' sweater does not seem very happy. Is he upset that, even though it is September, temperatures are still above 100 degrees? Maybe he is just too hot in his sweater.





Food was plentiful with great variety and choices for everyone.



Sandra McKeon and Christine Kint, longtime Lakewood forest neighbors, met around the buffet table and discussed which treats to try first.

On time, president **Harriett Bedenbaugh** called the meeting to order. **Sheila Anderson** by her side was keeping accurate records. A prominent display of the club's web address is encouraging members to check out the information available on the club's website.



Mary Davis started the meeting by recited a prayer for our group. She always selects a topic relevant to the season. For this meeting the theme was the sunflower as a symbol of the Lord's love and grace.



Meditation

The Sunflower Prayer

*Plant me like a sunflower, Lord,
deep in the folds of your will.
Forge my faith in soil's darkness
sprout Hope up as I wait still.*

*Grow me like a sunflower, Lord,
leaning close toward your light
Extend warm rays of direction,
keep me warm in your sight.*

*Adorn me like a sunflower, Lord,
humbly wearing a righteous crown.
Stack pedals of mercy and grace
golden forgiveness in Christ I've found.*

*Use me like a sunflower, Lord,
to offer nourishment and cheer.
Harvest the Spirit's fruit within me
encourage others you are drawing near.*

*Surround me like a sunflower, Lord,
in a field of believers ripe with faith.
Bring us together for a troubled world,
display your love through our bouquet.*

*Thank you, Lord, for creating
endearing reminders of your Word.
Looking up, away from earth's concerns,
My gaze meets yours, and joy,
like a mighty sunflower, stir.*

by Jamie Trunnel



Membership

Adrienne Juno, announced that 45 members and two guests were in attendance for our first meeting of the year. The club gained 13 new members since last year.

Awards

Our new Awards Chairwoman, MaryEtta Wood, encouraged everyone to register our yards with the National Wildlife Federation as a certified wildlife habitat. Key components needed to qualifying your yard are:

- **Water** – provide at least once source of water
- **Food** – provide at least two food sources
- **Shelter** – provide at least two sources of cover
- **Places to Raise Young** – provide at least two places to mate and raise young
- **Sustainable Practices** – engage in at least two categories of sustainable practices

Correspondent Secretary

Jean Robinson asked for a moment of silence in honor of Barbara Wolz, a long-time member and past president of the club. Barbara passed away during the summer. Our member **Marlo Wilson** suffered a stroke and luckily recovered with no perceptible deficits. **Barbara Davidson** is undergoing hip surgery and **Marilyn** is recovering from knee replacement surgery. All received get-well cards and encouragements from members.

Jean shared September birthdays and the Flower of the Month, the Morning Glory with the group.

Morning Glory

Due to their short lifespan, the blooms of the morning glory represent unreciprocated love. In Chinese folklore, the flower is a reminder of what typically happens when two young lovers fall in love and neglect their duties. Consequently, the gods will separate them on opposite sides of the river and permit them to meet for only a day a year.

This September flowers comes in different colors, including purple, blue, white, yellow, and red. The white color symbolizes innocence and purity while robust colors like red and purple signify strength and vitality.



Beautification

Mary Davis attends Lakewood Forest HOA meetings and reported to the group. Changes in management will happen next year. A community recycling event is planned for September. Please, check your emails for more information.

REACH

Volunteers are always appreciated at the REACH community. Winter vegetable plants will be available for sale soon. The honey produced by local bees and harvested at REACH is a hit with the garden club and Margo usually sells out by the end of the meeting.



Librarian



Harolene Hatley reminded everyone of the books she keeps for the club and are available to all. A book on organic gardening is popular. The book about the 2023 Spring Fling to Tyler is now in the library. Go check it out!

Harolene is also the chair person for the 50th Anniversary planning committee. Big plans are being hatched; more details to come!

Ways and Means

Rica Brock agreed to be the W&M Chairperson for this year. She reminded us to bring our check books to the next meeting as the plant sale will commence again. Members that excel in the sale of vouchers will receive prizes. One of which is a plant she potted in a painted gourd.

Besides the annual plant sale, we will collect for C.A.M. and wreaths across America.



Horticulture



Susan Hull is the club's new Horticulture committee chair. What can be said about planting and growing now??? In this heat and with water restriction even the native, drought tolerant plants are struggling to survive.

As we encounter higher temperatures, longer hot summer seasons and drier conditions, we have to adapt our gardening to the reality of our circumstances.

We need to consider native plants that require less water, gardening techniques to prevent water loss and more efficient watering systems. Some proactive ideas to

decrease water needs and prevent the garden from dying are listed here:

- **Choose Drought-tolerant Plants**

Group plants that require more water together in a small area. Shop for native plants at local nurseries that are familiar with the local weather and soil conditions and offer the appropriate plants.

- **Organic Matter**

Add compost and organic matter to the soil to improve its ability to retain moisture. A thick layer of mulch will keep the roots moist and cool during a hot summer.

- **Weed Control**

Weeds aggressively compete for water and nutrients with your desired plants. Remove weeds asap to give your plants a fighting chance.

- **Water Collection System**

Attach rain barrels to the downspouts or collect rainwater in trash cans, etc... Just one rainfall can provide enough water to make your effort worthwhile.

Susan offered a few tips that will benefit our drought stressed plants:

Drought stressed plants will display a multitude of symptoms. The oldest leaves will yellow and fall off. Twigs and branches of shrubs and trees may die back.

As drought conditions worsen, root damage can occur which will lead to the death of the plant. Once the drought is over, corrective actions may get some of our plants back to thriving again.

- **Watering**

Once water is available again, avoid drowning a drought stressed plant. Keep the soil moist, not wet. Roots also need oxygen; keeping the soil saturated will suffocate the roots and lead to more stress or even death.

- **Prune Plants Back**

During drought conditions it can be helpful to prune an otherwise healthy plant back by 1/3. This will decrease the



plant's need for water. If the plant suffered severe burning, browning and dieback, it can be pruned back to about 6 inches above the ground. With luck, new growth will be seen at the base of the plant. Don't prune if temperatures are still very high. Remove dead and dying branches from shrubs and trees.

- **Easy on the Fertilizer**

Should you fertilize during a drought? Probably not but if feeding is recommended it should only be at half strength and with sufficient watering. When water is available again, chose a slow release organic fertilizer with a high % of phosphorous. It will help the plant repair its root system rather than promoting fast leaf growth. Avoid salt-based synthetic fertilizers, it will intensify any root damage.

- **Be Aware of Secondary Problems**

A stressed plant is a target for pests and diseases. Be especially vigilant when recovering a drought stressed pant.

- **Mulch**

Once the pant was watered and fed, place a thick layer of mulch around the drip line to keep the roots cool.

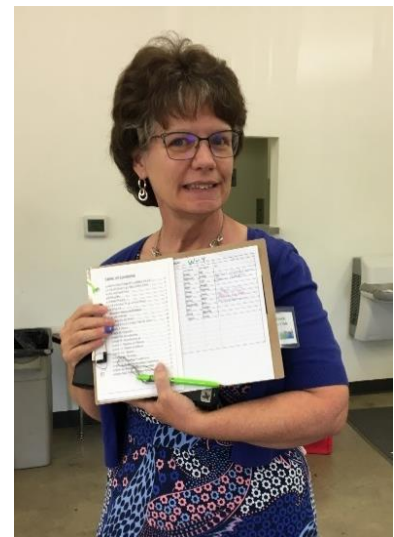
<https://www.thespruce.com/reviving-drought-stressed-plants-1402501>

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/plant-problems/environmental/reviving-drought-stressed-plants.htm>

Yearbook

Last but not least, Pam Randall explained the revision of the directory to us. Besides listing the committees and its chair persons, it has the updated bylaws and planned events for the year. One other improvement is the member page as it has a picture with the address of each member. No need to flip from page to page.

Good Job Pam!



The meeting was adjourned and the planning committee for the 50th Anniversary celebration was beginning their work.

