

February 2024

The sunshine on this first Friday of February brought out a record number of garden club members. A long que formed at the registration table where **Candace** was busy handing out nametags, welcoming guests and signing up new members.



Barbara Davidson passed out information about an April day trip and encouraged people to add their names to the reservation list. The bus will take us to Danevang, Tx to visit the Danish Heritage museum. Sounds like fun!

Margo took her place close to the door where she could catch people coming and going. Besides the REACH honey she sells, today she had two more items. Popular last year was the suet that residents cook up for hungry birds. Again, this year, Margo sells the cakes for \$3.00. For Mother's Day REACH will sell Hydrangeas and today Margo started taking orders for the flowers.





Debbie Jones arrived early and brewed fresh coffee to make sure everyone will have a hot cup of coffee to greet them. She will take over the Coffee service from Gabriele Klopp.

Thanks Debbie!!!



Eleese brought her friend, Diane Prestwood to the meeting today. A guest today, a member tomorrow??



Tammie and **Bobbie** were exchanging information on the carnage in their gardens before setting off to the refreshment area to see what the hostesses prepared for us today.



Mary Davis and **Teri** Cole, both involved in Lakewood Forest HOA business, are comparing notes for their reports. We are getting the “heads up” on upcoming elections and the annual LF Easter Egg hunt.

President, **Harriett** Bedenbaugh absolutely hates to have her picture taken. She claims that this is the worst part of her job and she will quit if this does not stop (just kidding 😊).



These two, **Susan** and **MaryEtta** appear to be up to some mischief; can you tell?



Hospitality



The ladies from this month's Hospitality committee (see picture) provided a lovely spread for us all. The theme was "Valentine" and shades of red dominated the display. With lots of sweets and bake ware people were tempted to come back for seconds and thirds. Even the water was fancied up with a variety of fruit.



Lynn Blair-Huber, Marlo Wilson, Barbara Crum, Beth Elkington, Sally Gengo and Patricia Haddadin.



Everyone liked the food but the flower arrangement was definitely a showstopper.

Meditation

*"In winter's cold and sparkling snow,
The garden in my mind does grow.
I look outside to blinding white,
And see my tulips blooming bright.
And over there a sweet carnation,
Softly scents my imagination.*

*On this cold and freezing day,
The Texas sage does gently sway,
And miniature roses perfume the air,
I can see them blooming there.
Though days are short, my vision's clear.
And through the snow, the buds appear.*



*In my mind, clematis climbs,
And morning glories do entwine.
Woodland phlox and scarlet pinks,
Replace the frost, if I just blink,
My inner eye sees past the snow.
And in my mind, my garden grows."*



Cynthia Adams, Winter Garden

Program



Our scheduled presenter had to cancel in the last moment. But **Pam** Randall stepped up to the plate with a presentation she had prepared for the Federation meeting last month. The topic of her ‘Show and Tell’ talk was:

“Technology in the Garden – it is not your grandmother’s garden anymore”.

She introduced to us Mr. Chain cutter, a battery powered, miniature chain saw that effortlessly cuts up to 3-inch-thick branches.

One of her own favorite garden appliances is a

kitchen composter by Vitamix. It will turn kitchen scraps into fine humus-like compost in a few hours.

A line of ‘Supervisors’, are probes to stick in the ground. They will measure instantly level of moisture, pH, light, etc. Some communicate with your smart phone and alert you to the needs of your plants and soil. SonCare is one of many 4- in-1 soil testers.



A Macro-lens attached to the cell phone can zoom in on plants and insects for better identification. When used with an appropriate App, follow-up information on the identified plant or pest problem is offered along with the best way to fix the disease or eliminate the pest.



Other Apps, connected to your sprinkler system, monitor conditions from your back yard or official weather station to automatically turn on/off the watering of the lawn. There is even an App that follows the cycle of the moon the tell you the optimal time to harvest your crops.

But if conditions are too wet, hot or cold for you outside, gardening can also be done in the comfort of your home. Self-contained units will allow you to grow plants in a self-regulated, perfect environment. These units come in various sizes. They can be vertical, hang from the ceiling, or can be built into kitchen cabinets.

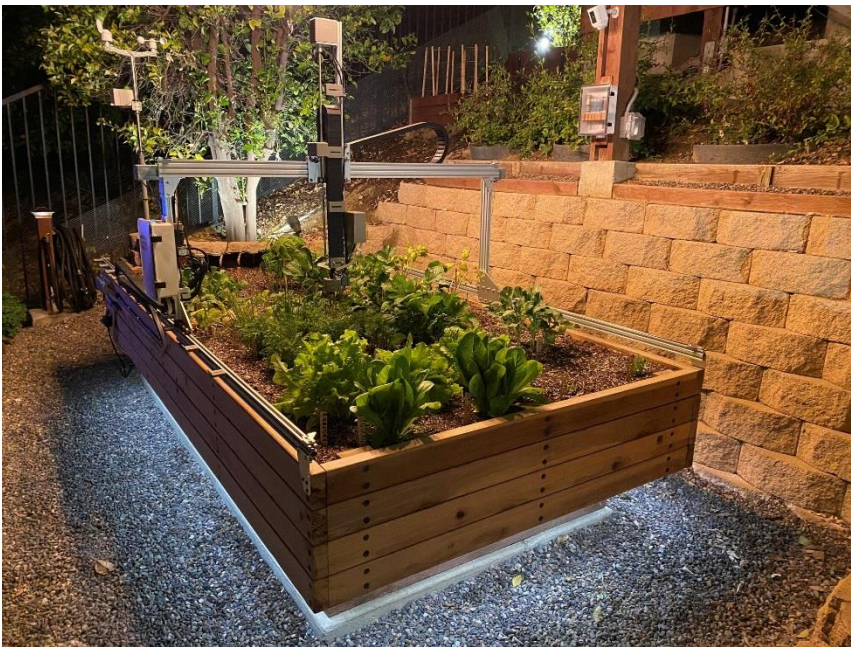
A solar powered, self-propelled robot, the TERTIL, will till and weed your flower beds.

For taller weeds and brush, the BUSH HOG will do the job its weaker cousin, the TERTIL, can't accomplish.



Also solar powered and self-propelled, the BUSH HOG does not need your assistance in the yard. You can stay on the couch with your favorite adult beverage and watch the robot do the job you used to have to do.

Self-propelled lawn mowers have been on the market for some time. They are popular in Europe and ideal for smaller lawns.



The ultimate in 'high tech' garden robot, is the FARBOT. It will ensure that you can grow your vegetables and herbs without ever stepping foot in the garden. Once set up this 'self-directed planter will prepare the soil, plant the seeds, add fertilizer and water as needed and constantly monitor growing condition.

Not sure if it will also sends you a text when it is the perfect time to harvest.

Pam presented her program with much humor. She showed us short videos on how these various devices work and gave us information on make and model of the gadgets she featured. Many of us were interested in the composter but at around \$300.00, it is a costly appliance.



Transportation

Donna has arranged a bus trip for us. On March 11 we will tour the **KLEB WOODS** Nature Preserve.

Located in Tomball, this property was a family farm once owned by the early German immigrant Conrad Kleb. Mr. Kleb came to this part of Harris County in the 1840s. His latest descendant, Elmer, inherited the farm. He stopped farming and let the place go back to nature where he enjoyed the company of birds and small animals. Elmer Kleb

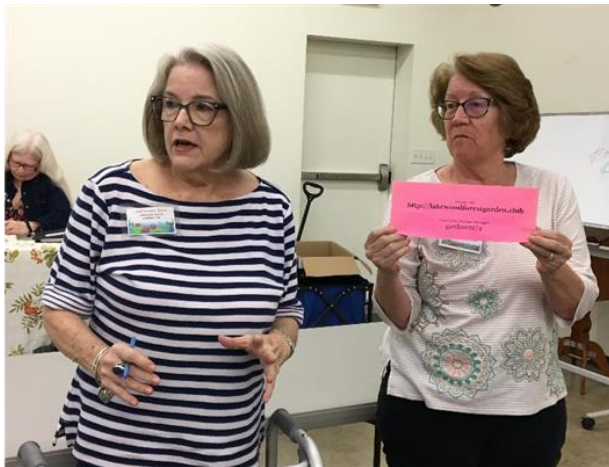
never concerned himself with mundane things like paying taxes and he eventually lost ownership of the property. Now a Nature Preserve open to the public, it features historic buildings, hiking trails, picnic areas and bird watching sites. Our group will have a guide tour leading us through the park. Sign up at the next meeting.



On April 3rd a trip is planned to the Danish Heritage museum. More information is to come but save the date.

Donna also reserved a bus for May 15. She is asking members for destination ideas.

Web Site Editor



Adrienne and **Jayne** reminded members of the new and exciting postings on our website.

Besides reports from our meetings and news from federation, she also has short bios and pictures of our new members. Check it out to get some interesting information on your new gardener friends.

You can sign up for the **District Convention** (3/27). Application form on the web site.

50th Anniversary

Harolene modeled a fascinator she bought for the event. It would look great if we all could dress up a little. A fancy hat or such would make the Tea a swanky affair and could produce memorable pictures.

The planning is coming along well and she thanked her whole team for their productive collaboration. She promises that we will have a swell time!



Nomination of officers for 2024-2025

Cathy Rogers, as head of the nomination committee, introduced the slate of officers for the upcoming year to us. But first she thanked her committee members, Lynn White and Becky Bailey, for working together to come up with a group of devoted garden club volunteers willing to step up and fill the positions. Her committee selected the following members to be elected during the May meeting:

- President Barbara Crum
- 1st VP Bette Gerhold
- 2nd VP MaryEtta Wood
- Treasurer Susan Busler
- Recording Secretary Mary Davis
- Corresponding Secretary Jean Robinson (absent)



Many Thanks to the nomination team member for a job well done!